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News conference

Bush (right) answers a reporter's question as Gorbachev listens at a joint news conference in the White House yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

'US pushing war'

We don't trust Kaddoumi

KUWAIT, June 3, (AP) — Farouk Kaddoumi, who acts as the Palestine Liberation Organisation's foreign minister, said in a statement published today that the United States was pushing the Middle East into a new war.

Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, and another Palestinian official, Hani Al Hassan, also criticised US threats to sever a dialogue with the PLO, if the PLO does not oust from its governing body the commando leader who staged a seaborne raid on Israel last week.

Sabah leaves for Taif: Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber left Kuwait on Sunday for Taif to take part in the GCC ministerial council meetings.

The GCC ministers of foreign affairs and finance and economy are to hold a joint meeting to discuss and adopt several economic and financial issues. (Kuna)

10 more pull out: Ten candidates pulled out on Sunday from elections next week for a National Council in Kuwait, leaving 385 contesting 50 seats, the official Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) said.

Sunday's withdrawals bring to 182 the number of candidates who have pulled out since registration closed on May 9. (Reuters)

Olav partially paralyzed: Norway's 86-year-old King Olav V was partially paralyzed on Sunday following a stroke, but was conscious and could speak, his doctors said.

His condition was described as "unsafe," and the next few days will be decisive, said the doctors in a statement. (AP)

Djurav urged to resign: Bulgarian army officers called on Sunday for Defence Minister Dobri Djurav to resign after an officer shot an opposition activist, latest in a series of mysterious deaths ahead of elections later this month.

The opposition daily Demokratiya published an appeal from a group of 600 communist army officers calling the minister to account for abuses of political influence in the armed forces.

The opposition says a supporter of the leading Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) opposition alliance was shot dead by an army officer in Shumen on Thursday night. (Reuters)

Iraq grants PLO \$25m: Iraq on Sunday gave the PLO \$25 million in aid which it pledged at the Arab summit in Baghdad last week. PLO sources said. (Reuters)

Tremor shakes southern Tunisia: A 6.0 earth tremor measuring four on the open-ended Richter scale shook the Gafsa area in south-west Tunisia on Saturday night, the Meteorological Institute said on Sunday. No damage was reported. (Reuters)

Bid to save accord: With the future of national unity at stake, Canada's prime minister and his 10 provincial premiers gathered for an emergency meeting on Sunday to try to break a constitutional impasse over French-speaking Quebec.

Gorbachev warns of halting exodus

I will persuade Israel: Bush; summit a success; discord over Germany, Baltics

WASHINGTON, June 3, (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev issued a dramatic warning to Israel today, saying he would consider halting Jewish emigration unless the Jewish state gave assurances that migrants would not be allowed to settle in occupied Arab lands.

Speaking at a joint news conference with President George Bush, as the two men ended their four-day summit, Gorbachev said he had been "bombarded" with criticism from Arab leaders over the issue.

"We are facing the following situation — either, after these (summit) meetings — our concern is

heeded in Israel and they will make certain conclusions or else we must give further thought to it in terms of what we do in issuing permits for exit," he said.

Gorbachev said he hoped Israel would heed the advice of himself and Bush — who at the news conference repeated US opposition to new settlements in the occupied territories — and would "act in a wise fashion."

Bush joined Gorbachev with a reiteration of US opposition to further settlements on the lands captured by Israel.

Hurd plugs spark

JEDDAH, June 3, (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd urged Israel today to agree to direct peace negotiations with the Palestinians and warned of large-scale violence in the absence of a settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Speaking at a news conference at the end of a two-day visit to the kingdom, Hurd suggested a 4-point plan to reactivate the stalled Middle East peace process, calling on Washington to maintain its "constructive engagement" in the search for a settlement.

"A tremor of danger may shake the region and if things drift further, we risk a damaging escalation of violence," he said.

He suggested a representative of the United Nations visit the Israeli-occupied territories to report to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar about the situation there.

"The security of Israel cannot be ensured by ignoring the existence of those whose territories her forces now occupy," he said.

Hurd's suggestion points to a less binding alternative to a 3-member investigative team that the UN Security Council considered last week. Britain and the other members of the Security Council backed the resolution, but the United States used its veto power to block it.

Frustration

"My discussions here and in Jordan have been overshadowed by concern about the Arab-Israeli problem," Hurd said.

"In both countries I have been speaking with wise and experienced men who have long been sympathetic to the West and opposed to extremism. I share their sense of a tremor shaking the region," he said.

He welcomed the Soviet Union's more liberal emigration policy, but termed the settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied territories as "unjust" and "illegal." He said it constituted a threat to stability.

"The Arab world is deeply worried by the prospect of Soviet Jews settling in occupied territories. It is not right to correct one injustice and impose another," Hurd said.

Hurd said he discussed the issue with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

"The sense of frustration runs deep. Other major disputes around the world are showing dramatic signs of progress but here by contrast the peace process is blocked. The West must realise how serious the consequences could be," the British official said.

Anxious to avoid Kashmir conflict

Hot spots at summit talks

CAMP DAVID, Maryland, June 3, (Reuters) — President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev compared notes yesterday on world hot spots including the Middle East, Kashmir, Cambodia and Afghanistan, but did not seem any closer to breakthroughs.

On Kashmir, the superpowers are both anxious to avoid a full-scale conflict between India and Pakistan and have been urging restraint on both parties.

"The most important thing today we're going to discuss is, go over the planet and its hot flashpoints, to discuss regional issues, in other words," Gorbachev said at the start of informal talks at Bush's mountain-top retreat at Camp David.

They talked. It didn't appear they agreed.

"The two leaders agreed to continue to exchange views on these important regional issues, to make whatever improvements they can to ease tensions, and to stay in touch wherever they can to be helpful in a given situation," White House spokesman Martin Fitzgibbon told reporters afterwards.

Some analysts have suggested that Gorbachev is too absorbed in domestic problems to be able to take decisions on regional conflicts.

And superpower influence over regional conflicts is less than it once was. Regional powers have become increasingly independent and assertive. Many have developed domestic arms industries and technological capabilities of considerable sophistication and power.

On the Middle East, the Soviet Union has scant influence nowadays. It recently told its ally Syria it no longer endorsed Damascus' ambition for strategic parity with Israel.

In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the United States is not anxious to have its prime role as mediator challenged by Moscow and the Soviet Union seems disinclined to seek a more active role.

Bush and Gorbachev still have major differences over the question of a united Germany, joining Nato and Lithuania's bid for independence.



Khomeini weeps

Supreme leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Ali Khomeini weeps on Saturday, below a portrait of spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini who died one year ago. A week of mourning started on Friday, with millions of Iranians expected to gather at the grave of Khomeini in an emotional memorial today. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iron Lady sees Iran peace offer

LONDON, June 3, (Reuters) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today Iran had held out an olive branch to Britain in raising the possibility of restoring diplomatic relations severed over Salman Rushdie's novel 'The Satanic Verses'.

Thatcher spoke on British Broadcasting Corporation radio a day after Hussein Musavvin, an Iranian Foreign Ministry official, said the door would be opened to normal relations if Britain condemned the 'insult to Islam' in the novel.

Thatcher said she did not have details of the offer, but from press reports believed the Iranian government had 'held out a very significant olive branch to us.'

Thatcher said Britain was anxious to restore relations, but she gave no indication it would respond to Iranian demands for an official condemnation of 'The Satanic Verses'.

Thatcher said Britons understood Muslim sensitivity to blasphemy but also believed in freedom of speech.

See also Page 9



'Rise up'

Students at Beijing University hurled bottles out of dormitory windows and shouted at police in a daring protest on Sunday, anniversary of last year's bloody crackdown on China's student-led democracy movement.

About 200 students, mainly graduates, threw bottles as police moved through the walled campus in force in the evening, witnesses said.

Picture shows police arrest a man who held up a protest poster to a television crew from Canadian broadcast corporation near Beijing's Tiananmen Square. (Reuters wirephoto) Details Page 6



Sharon ready

Israeli hardliner Ariel Sharon who led Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, says yesterday he will try to form a government if caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir fails to do so. (Reuters wirephoto) Details Page 9

Indian army frees Kashmiri journalist after denying arrest in Supreme Court

SRINAGAR, June 3, (AP) — An Indian journalist who covers the separatist movement in Kashmir for Western news organisations was released today after being held, bound and interrogated by the army for a day.

The government acknowledged that Indian soldiers detained journalist Yusuf Jameel, who was missing for more than 24 hours, and said it had launched an investigation. Earlier today, the government told the Supreme Court that it had no knowledge of the journalist's whereabouts.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Subodh Kant,

at a hastily called news conference, said military units detained Jameel to investigate an alleged Muslim militant.

He said the soldiers who detained Jameel were from a "faraway place" and failed to inform commanding officers in Srinagar of their action.

Witnesses, including two police officers, reported that Jameel was taken from his house Saturday morning by at least 15 soldiers travelling in military vehicles.

Jameel said soldiers from a Gurkha regiment shuttled him among four army installations during

his detention. At the third base, his hands were tied behind his back and he was questioned about the whereabouts of a local newspaper employee whom the soldiers alleged had received military training in Pakistan.

He said he was released by soldiers this morning at Baramulla, 45 kms (28 miles) northwest of Srinagar. He said one soldier gave him Rupees 50 (about \$3) to take a bus home after he said he had no money.

Jameel showed no signs of injury and said he had not been hurt.

He was reporting on the Muslim separatist

movement in Srinagar for Time magazine, the British Broadcasting Corp., Reuters, the British news agency, and the Telegraph, an Indian newspaper published in Calcutta.

Jameel was greeted joyfully by friends when he walked through the gate of his Srinagar home.

"It's a miracle. And it's great for us. How on earth is the government going to explain this one," said one neighbour.

"If they can do this to Yusuf, an internationally known man, imagine what they do to ordinary people," said another.

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Harrison is shown in this 1963 film photo with actress Hepburn during the filming of *My Fair Lady*. (Reuter wirephoto)

Harrison last of a breed

Actor died with his boots on

NEW YORK, June 3, (AP) — Fellow actors are lamenting the death of Rex Harrison, hailing a gentle actor-knight renowned as much for his civility and urbanity as his consummate acting skill.

Harrison, who taught the king's English in *"My Fair Lady"* and talked to animals as the lovable Dr. Dolittle during a 66-year career, died in his sleep yesterday at the age of 82.

A stage and screen star in the United States and his native England, he died of pancreatic cancer at his New York City home, said his attorney, Harold Schiff.

"To watch him and to work with him was a joyful experience," said Julie Andrews, who played Eliza Dolittle to Harrison's Professor Henry Higgins in *"My Fair Lady"* on Broadway for three years.

"I doubt there was anyone before like him," she added. "The theatre has lost an extraordinary one-of-a-kind."

Harrison was best known for his high-toned Higgins in *"My Fair Lady"*, which won him a Tony Award for his Broadway portrayal and earned a best-actor Academy Award for his screen version opposite Audrey Hepburn.

He half notes, "half-spoke, half-crowned" "I've grown accustomed to her face" hundreds of times as the stuffy language professor who falls in love with a cockney waitress after teaching her how to overcome her lower-class accent and speak proper English.

"I could have played Higgins for 20 years, but I wanted to do other things," Harrison said in 1965. "And I did, in fact."

In the role of Dr. Dolittle, he played the fanciful jungle gentleman who conversed with wildlife. The film introduced Harrison to a new generation of young movie-goers. Earlier prominent roles came in the 1940 film *"Major Barbara"* and *"Blithe Spirit"* in 1945.

"He had the best sense of humor of almost any actor I have ever known," said his agent, Lawrence Evans, who worked with Harrison for more than 40 years. "He was a lovable, frascable man."

Harrison had been ill only a short time and did not know he had cancer, Schiff said. Doctors told him he was suffering from gall bladder trouble, the lawyer said.

Harrison, who debuted on Broadway in 1936, died three weeks after his latest appearance there May 11. He played Lord Porteous in W. Somerset Maugham's 1920s comedy *"The Circle"*, which is vying for "Best Revival" honour at tonight's Tony Awards ceremony.

"He died with his boots on no question about it," said "Circle" producer Elliot Martin, referring to Harrison's decision not to retire.

"He wanted to be on the stage. That was it. That was his life," Schiff said. "He didn't care about retiring, he didn't care about anything else but the theatre."

Harrison was born in Huyton, near Liverpool, on March 5, 1908, and joined the Liverpool Repertory Theatre in 1924.

His first appearance on the London stage was in 1930. By the end of the decade he emerged as a star, appearing in Sir Terence Rattigan's *"French Without Tears"* from 1936 to 1938. He last appeared on the London stage in *"The Admirable Crichton"* in 1988.

In addition to his awards for *"My Fair Lady"*, Harrison won a Tony for his portrayal of Henry VIII in Maxwell Anderson's *"Anne of the Thousand Days"* and a special American theatre award for his overall stage achievements.



Harrison shown in this 1962 film photo with actress Elizabeth Taylor during the filming of *Cleopatra*. (Reuter wirephoto)

Reggae concert

Riots kill 1, injure 38

HARARE, Zimbabwe, June 3, (AP) — Rioting at a concert by a top British Reggae band left one man dead, evidently from a shotgun wound, and 38 music fans injured, three of them seriously, it was reported yesterday.

A police dog handler was also seriously wounded after police fired warning shots and tear-gas to disperse rioters trying to gatecrash a concert by touring British musicians Misty in Roots, the semi-official Zimbabwe Inter African news agency reported.

About 18 fans were arrested, Ziana said. The news agency said disturbances began when angry fans outside a stadium in the eastern border town of Mutare tore down fencing to enter the concert without paying, and then overturned and set alight a car at the gates late Friday.

Ziana quoted a police spokeswoman Judith Nwababwa saying police fired warning shots with live ammunition after rioters also attempted to torch a gasoline station outside the stadium.

drugs, said detective Rick Swanson.

The dead man was identified as Gene Brian Holloway, 23, who lived near the neighbourhood where he was killed and did not know any of the people who were terrorised, Swanson said yesterday.

"We are looking at it as a justifiable homicide," he said.

Holloway had been unemployed for about a year since being discharged from the army. The rampage ended when homeowner

James Bruner, 38, shot Holloway as he reportedly advanced toward Bruner's wife, Elizabeth, after breaking into their house.

Bruner, 38, told police he was at home with his wife and child when he heard a noise in the backyard, went outside and was confronted by a blood-covered naked man.

They struggled until Bruner got back inside his house and locked a sliding glass door behind him. He told his wife to call police and armed himself with a shotgun.

Midwestern tornadoes leave 10 dead

INDIANAPOLIS, June 3, (AP) — A band of tornadoes cut through the nation's midsection yesterday killing at least 10 people and injuring at least 133, authorities said.

Indiana Governor Evan Bayh declared a state of emergency and dispatched the Indiana National Guard to Bedford and Petersburg, the two hardest-hit areas.

Storms also swept across Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, knocking down trees, disrupting utility service and damaging homes and businesses.

At least four tornadoes skipped across southern and central Indiana, touching down about 50 times, said Jerry Hauer, director of the State Department of emergency management.

Hauer said that of the dead in Indiana, three were killed in Petersburg, three in Bedford and one in Putnam county. State police Sgt. Joe Rhodes said two more people were killed in Union, which is near Petersburg.

At least one of the victims died when tornadoes hit mobile homes, officials said. In Illinois, tornadoes destroyed or damaged scores of homes, killing a woman in the southeastern town of Browns and injuring at least

eight people in Findlay and Newtowa counties, officials said.

Officials concerned about leaks shut off electricity and gas service in Findlay, which has a population of about 800, after 11 homes were destroyed and 25 others were damaged.

— In Ohio, a tornado damaged several homes and destroyed a restaurant in Harrison, outside Cincinnati, the national weather service said. Several minor but no serious injuries were reported.

— In Kentucky, a tornado overturned a house trailer and damaged three others in the town of west Liberty, and two possible tornadoes were

reported elsewhere in the state, according to police and the weather service. No injuries were immediately reported.

— In Michigan, a tornado touched down in big prairie township, said Newago County Sheriff's dispatcher Bob Bain. No injuries were reported, and the extent of the damage was not immediately known, he said.

— In Kansas, winds that reached 70 miles per hour (112 kilometres per hour) tore roofs from homes throughout the city of Hutchinson. Downed powerlines knocked out power to nearly 50,000 homes and sparked grass fires.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LONDON: John Malkovich star of the films *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Empire of the Sins*, has received generally favourable reviews following his British stage debut in the Broadway play *Thais*.

Jack Tashman of the *Daily Mail* Wednesday said Malkovich gave "a performance of wall-busting intensity" at the Hampstead Theatre. He is reprising the role he played on Broadway for *Six Mow* Named Anna, played by British actress Juliet Stevenson.

Michael Billington in the *Guardian* said the star's "riveting" performance confirmed his belief that Malkovich was "the most exciting American actor to emerge since Brando." Playwright Wilson is "too little-known in Britain," added Billington.

Martin Hoyle in the *Financial Times* seconded the comparison to Brando. He wrote that Malkovich displayed the "combination of verbal wildness and emotional precision one associates with Brando," although he faulted the play for being "disappointingly flabby and soft-centred." (AP)

OSLO, Norway: Parliament amended Norway's constitution last week to allow the daughters of Norway's future kings the same rights as their brothers to inherit the crown.

The old rule gave princes preference as monarchs, even when they had older sisters. "A basic attitude in the Norwegian society today is that men and women have equal rights and duties," Jan Petersen of the Conservative Party told the NTB news agency.

"I see it as self-evident that this should include the right to inherit the throne," he said.

The amendment affects children born after 1990. Crown Prince Harald and his son Prince Haakon Magnus are still entitled to the throne although both have sisters. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Comic Jay Leno will donate royalties from his book *Headlines to a charity that helps children stricken with AIDS.*

"My mother had a 3-year-old baby that died of AIDS and at the time people thought it couldn't happen to them," Leno said.

Profits from the book, a collection of strange newspaper headlines that has sold more than 250,000 copies, will go to the Samuel Jared Kushner Foundation founded by his manager, Helen Kushner. Leno said he didn't know how much money was involved.

Kushner's son died in 1983 after receiving an AIDS-tainted blood transfusion.

She said Leno's effort "makes me feel Sam didn't die in vain." (AP)

NEW YORK: Gov. Mario Cuomo showed a winning form on the basketball court in dispatching a couple of television journalists.

The 58-year-old New York state governor, who is expected to announce for re-election soon, challenged anchorman Jim Ryan and political reporter Dick Oliver of WNYW's *Good Day New York* to one-on-one Wednesday. He beat them by identical scores of 7-1.

"They were pretty good for reporters, but we knew the governor would prevail in the end," said Karen Polk, an aide to Cuomo. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Drugs have been dropped from the story line of Corey Feldman's next movie, *Secret's Honour*. But the film's director said the change had nothing to do with the teen-age actor's legal problems.

Feldman was in court Tuesday for a hearing on whether he should face trial on two drug possession charges carrying up to four years in prison each.

Feldman, 18, was stopped for speeding March 9, and police said a search of his rented car turned up 25 balloons containing heroin or cocaine. "The actor has since admitted having a drug problem and enrolled in rehabilitation programme."

In his next movie, a group of scouts will find a cache of guns, rather than drugs, in the wild and turn it over to police, said writer-director Davis O'Malley.

O'Malley said the plot was changed because drugs are a worn-out story device. But he conceded that Feldman, as an anti-drug hero, might cause audiences to laugh.

"I feel good right now. Hopefully everything will work out for the best. We'll just wait and see what happens," Feldman said outside court. He is free on \$5,000 bail. (AP)



Prince performs during the opening concert of 'The Nude Tour' in Feijenoord Stadium in Rotterdam on June 2. (Reuter wirephoto)

NorthWest pilot arrested on drunken-driving charge

ST PAUL, Minnesota, June 3, (AP) — A NorthWest Airlines pilot was suspended from flying after his arrest on a drunken-driving charge as he drove to work, according to a published report yesterday.

"He was on his way, yes, to fly a regular passenger flight," NorthWest spokesman Doug Miller told the Saint Paul Pioneer press.

Hans Falkenberg, 39, was arrested on May 28 and has been suspended from flying, the

newspaper reported. Shortly after his arrest, Falkenberg "asked to make a phone call so he could call his employer and cancel a flight," said Minnesota Patrol Capt. Dean Swanson.

On March 8, a NorthWest cockpit crew was arrested after flying a commercial jet from Fargo, North Dakota, to Minneapolis. The three crew members face federal charges of flying while under the influence of alcohol; all

have pleaded innocent. The Federal Aviation Administration revoked their pilot licences and the airline fired them.

Falkenberg was stopped by a state trooper for driving an average of 73 miles (117 kilometres) per hour in a 55-mile (88-kilometre) per hour zone on a state highway.

According to his arrest report, the trooper smelled alcohol on Falkenberg, then asked him to perform a series of co-ordination tests.

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Naked man on rampage shot dead in bizarre attack

LOS ANGELES, June 3, (AP) — A homeowner shot and killed a naked man who charged through a glass door during a neighbourhood rampage, police say.

The man earlier smashed his head or hand through windows at three other homes late Friday, terrorising residents but not harming them.

There was no explanation for the bizarre assault on the San Fernando valley neighbourhood. Police were awaiting the results of coroner's tests to determine if the man was on

Salvador rebels escalate attacks

SAN SALVADOR, June 3. (AP) Leftist rebels attacked army positions yesterday just west of San Salvador, residents said, in the second day of intensified fighting in the 10-year-old civil war.

Guerrilla commander Jorge Melendez, speaking on clandestine rebel radio Venceremos, said the insurgents are trying to pressure the government into negotiating an end to the war.

The fighting took place in Ciudad Merliot, 7 miles west of San Salvador, the capital. The residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they knew of no casualties.

The armed forces said 15 guerrillas were killed and 25 wounded in fighting with army troops Friday along the Pan-American highway 45 miles (72 kilometres) east of San Salvador in San Vicente province.

A rebel camp was destroyed, the armed forces press office said. It did not say if any government troops were killed or wounded.

Also Friday, Urban guerrilla commandos blew up more than 20 utility poles and high-tension wire towers, leaving a third of the country without power on the first anniversary of President Alfredo Cristiani's presidency.

Cristiani, of the rightist Republican Nationalist Alliance, pledged when he took office to work for peace.

Representatives of the US-backed government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the guerrillas' organization, agreed in May on an agenda for talks to achieve peace in about a year.

More than 71,000 salvadoreans, mostly civilians, have been killed during the war in this Central American country of about 5.5 million people.

Three political prisoners will be tried this month for involvement in the June 1985 pink zone massacre in which 13 people were killed, including six US citizens, judicial authorities said yesterday in San Salvador.

Military officials said they decided Friday evening to bring formal charges against Juan Miguel Garcia, Abraham Dimas Aguilar and William Celio Rivas, who have been imprisoned without trial since August 1985.

On June 19, 1985, a group opened fire in an open-air restaurant in the exclusive pink zone of San Salvador in the northwestern part of the city, gunning down 13 people, including four US marines and two US technicians. (UPI)

Guatemala: Euphoria over a pledge by Guatemalan rebel leaders not to disrupt national elections subsided in the face of work still to be done before peace is achieved in that Central American nation.

The guerrillas made it clear they will not disband until their major demands have been met.

"We are not tired of fighting," said Pablo Manzant of Rebel Armed Forces, one of the three guerrilla groups that took part in five days of talks. "We will keep fighting as long as it takes for the original causes of the war to disappear."

The guerrillas want to change the constitution to make it more protective of the rights of all members of society, particularly low-income groups who have generally been excluded from the political process of Guatemala. (UPI)

Nicaragua: The Sandinista Front, in a rare show of support for President Violeta Chamorro, announced yesterday it would help the government lobby for international aid at an upcoming meeting with donor countries in Rome.

Sergio Ramirez, the highest-ranking Sandinista member of the National Assembly, will travel to Rome for the Wednesday conference in a show of "spiritual constructiveness and the high level of national responsibility that we place on all of our political actions," said a statement from the national directorate of the Sandinista Front.

Barco to meet Bush Tuesday

BOGOTA, June 3. (Reuters) Colombian President Virgilio Barco, praised abroad but criticised at home for the way he fought the country's drug barons, meets President George Bush in Washington on Tuesday for the last time before leaving office.

Government sources said the two presidents, meeting for the fourth time, would discuss advances in the anti-drug fight since a four-nation drug summit held in Colombia in February.

Barco will also ask Bush for more US help in blocking black market arms sales and mercenary assistance to Colombian drug traffickers, the New York Times has reported.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Prisoner consents to execution: The US Supreme Court voted early Sunday to allow the execution of convicted killer Thomas Baal, who had objected to appeals filed on his behalf.

Nevada prison officials scheduled him for execution by lethal injection at 7:05 am (1405 GMT) Sunday.

The high court voted 5-4 just after midnight to overturn the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling which delaying the execution at the request of Baal's parents. (AP)

Low Medfly sex drive: The tried and true method of using sterile Mediterranean fruit flies to eradicate infestations by fooling the fertile flies into fruitless mating has run into trouble: low sex drive.

The standard eradication plan is to spray infested areas repeatedly with the pesticide malathion and follow up with the release of millions of sterile flies to chase away fertile flies that survived.

But in the battle against a Medfly colony north of Miami international airport, tests on three shipments of sterile flies from Guatemala show the mating propensity of the flies is too low.

Scientists use a special "mating propensity index" to measure the likelihood that sterile flies will mate. (AP)

Lava claims church, home: Lava from Kilauea volcano destroyed the Kalapana Mauna Kea congregational church late Friday night and one more home early Saturday, a civil defence spokesman said.

The massive front of slowly advancing lava moved to within 10 feet (three metres) of Walter Yamaguchi's abandoned Kalapana store and drive-in before stagnating as the flow front changed direction and headed towards the ocean. Lanny Nakano said Saturday. (AP)

Call gets rare Andean condors: Two adult and nine baby Andean condors raised in the United States were shipped to Colombia Saturday where the youngsters will be released into the wild, improving the endangered species' chances for survival.

The nine young male condors and six other females were hatched in California zoos. The females were selected for an experiment on how best to release birds that have been born and raised in captivity, said Al Lieberman, curator of birds at the San Diego Zoo. (UPI)

US to bar homosexuals: US immigration officials plan to invoke a rarely enforced law barring homosexuals from entering the country when thousands of people arrive for a major conference on Aids in San Francisco later this month, the New York Times reported in its Sunday edition.

The Times said the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) decided to resurrect the law when it learned that some foreign citizens were planning to test the law by declaring themselves homosexuals when they arrive to attend the sixth international conference on Aids beginning on June 20. (Reuters)

US to use aid to curtail influx: An advisory panel in a report to be submitted to Congress next month plans to recommend using foreign aid to curtail illegal immigration from parts of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, the New York Times reported on Sunday. (Reuters)

Pro-gambling candidate elected: A virtual unknown Saturday ousted the only remaining anti-gambling chief on the New York tribal council to represent a unified front for casinos on the strife-torn Mohawk reservation.

Pro-gambling political newcomer Norman Tarell defeated head Chief Harold Tarell by 99 votes to win a seat on the New York tribal council, where all three chiefs are now advocates of gambling.

The exact vote tally was not available, but several Mohawks confirmed that the margin of victory was 99 votes. (UPI)



Funeral

Uninformed supporters of African National Congress carry the coffin of a youth killed two weeks ago in clashes with police in the South African mining town of Welkom. (Reuters wirephoto)



Tiananmen sealed off

Armed police march through Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 3 as the area is sealed off to the public in preparation for the first anniversary of last year's crackdown on the democracy movement. (Reuters wirephoto)

Proving problem 'Dead' man lives

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 3. (Reuters) A young Brazilian is trying to convince the authorities that he is alive, nearly a month after being officially certified dead and buried, the O Globo and Jornal Do Brasil newspapers reported yesterday.

The confusion began on Friday, April 27, when 19-year-old Jandir Augusto Guaraqui left the trading company office where he worked in the southern town of Porto Alegre.

Instead of going home, he unexpectedly decided to spend the weekend with his girlfriend, the two newspapers said in reports from Porto Alegre.

A bad cold kept him away from work on Monday, but by then his anxious parents had already notified the police and local hospital of his "disappearance."

Morgue officials then called his parents, saying a badly-disfigured corpse run down by a bus over the weekend matched Jandir's description.

Peru quake 3 days in rubble

LIMA, June 3. (Reuters) Villagers and journalists have rescued a 60-year-old man who was trapped for three days under the rubble of his mud-brick house which was destroyed by an earthquake in northern Peru, local television and newspapers said yesterday.

"Help me. Thanks to God I'm still alive... I was only waiting to die under the rubble," Miguel Carriozos Reyna mumbled as he was rescued from the rubble in the village of Segunda Jerusalen (second Jerusalem) in the Amazon jungle area, the reports said.

Journalists and villagers dug out Carriozos with their bare hands after bearing moans coming from the rubble.

"I am a poor man and have nobody to care for me," television and newspaper reports quoted him as saying as he opened his eyes to his rescuers. He was rushed to hospital with broken legs and in serious condition, the reports said.

Latin America

Pipes pinged with stolen money: Plumbers working to clear plugged pipes in an Argentine provincial bank were surprised to find around \$8,000 worth of stolen Argentine austral notes stuffed into the plumbing, the official news agency Telam said on Saturday.

Workers at the northern provincial Bank of Corrientes, some 1,040 km (645 miles) north of Buenos Aires, said they found bundles of 50,000 austral bills worth at least 40 million australes (around \$8,000) blocking the bank's pipes. (Reuters)

Caribbean film festival: Twenty-seven films will compete for awards at the second Festival of Caribbean Images, which opened on Friday night in Fon de France.

A documentary on C.L.R. James, the celebrated Trinidadian author of "Black Jacobins" and a Cuban film were shown Friday night as part of the competition for best films of new film-makers in the Caribbean region.

2,000 Muslims killed in Liberia: Al Sumait

Rebels march on Monrovia for showdown

KUWAIT, June 3. (Agencies) Over 2,000 Muslims in Liberia have been slaughtered during the past few months at the hands of Liberian rebels, secretary-general of the African Muslims Society Dr Abdul Rahman Al Sumait said last night.

In a press conference, Dr Sumait said the rebel forces have entered the country across the border with the Ivory Coast and distributed leaflets in the name of church calling for expelling Muslims and liquidating their establishments.

The press conference was attended by a delegation of the Liberian Muslims.

brethren in Liberia and to discuss with the Kuwaiti officials ways of solving this problem.

Koroma then spoke about how the rebels killed Muslims in the villages they stormed, and how they issued statements asking the Liberian president not to co-operate with the Muslims and not to allow them carry out any Islamic activity in the country.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross officially began protecting refugees from Liberia's bloody civil war yesterday, as rebels marched on the capital Monrovia for a final showdown with government troops.

Red Cross flags flew at a Lutheran Church Centre in Monrovia occupied by more than 1,300 people, most from the Gio and Mano tribes, who moved in after soldiers of the ruling Krahn tribe attacked them at a nearby United Nations compound.

People at the centre said they were guarded by soldiers and police of their own tribal group. The war has become a bloody tribal feud between Gio and Manos supporting rebel leader Charles Taylor, and Krahn backing President Samuel Doe.

At least one person was reported killed, 30 to 40 abducted and others were missing after soldiers attacked the UN compound on Wednesday, prompting the UN to evacuate international staff.

No major clashes were reported yesterday but tensions were high as the capital awaited the approach of troops fighting for Taylor, a dissident former civil servant whose National Patriotic Front of Liberia launched an invasion six months ago.

"It's going to be bad," one Monrovia resident said. "But I have nowhere else to go."

Doe said on Friday he would not stand for re-election next year but diplomats said Taylor was unlikely to halt his attacks, noting that the rebel leader has said there can only be a negotiated settlement if Doe steps down.

A US force of 2,000 Marines on board six ships, including a helicopter carrier, is sailing from the Mediterranean and expected to arrive early next week to evacuate an estimated 1,100 Americans in the country.

Three British ships are also reported offshore.

Taylor's forces now control well over half the West African country, which was founded in 1847 by freed American slaves. The conflict has paralysed the economy and raised fears of bloody reprisals if rebels overrun Monrovia.

Taylor's main force, which some estimates put as high as 3,500 men, has moved beyond Kakata, 44 miles (70 km) north-east of Monrovia, and is advancing towards the capital.

"The main force took Kakata and went right on through," one analyst said. Travellers however, gave conflicting reports of whether rebels or the government held the city, site of a major battle two weeks ago.

Accused of using drugs during office terms



Barry shown during a press conference. (Reuters file photo)

Barry goes on trial

WASHINGTON, June 3. (UPI) The mayor of the nation's capital goes on trial today accused of using cocaine for years while leading a chorus of anti-drug rhetoric and denouncing government probes of his personal life.

Mayor Marion Barry, the most powerful local politician in the history of the district of Columbia, is charged with using cocaine throughout two of his three terms in office and lying about it to a federal grand jury.

Barry, 54, a civil leader in the 1960s, who became the second elected mayor of the district of Columbia and one of America's most influential black leaders, admitted last week to smoking crack cocaine on the night of his Jan 18 arrest at a downtown hotel.

He also made it clear that, regardless of his guilt or innocence on the 14 perjury, cocaine possession and conspiracy charges against him, he does not expect to be convicted.

"I think the prosecutors know that, in this town, all it takes is one juror saying, 'I'm not going to convict Marion Barry, I don't care what you say,' Barry told the Washington Post.

Jury selection begins tomorrow before US District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson. Seating a 12-person jury deemed objective by both sides could take a week or more, and the trial is expected to last at least a month.

A plea agreement remains possible, and could come at any time during the trial. Barry could face a maximum sentence of 26 years in prison and \$1.85 million in fines if the case goes to trial and he is convicted of all counts.

Walter Fauntroy, the district's non-voting delegate in Congress and a candidate to replace Barry as mayor in this year's election, is calling on Barry and US attorney Jay Stephens to reach an agreement to keep the case from going to trial.

Assault

"There are typewriters and video recorders poised all over the world to unleash a thunderous assault on the character, integrity and the self-worth of the citizens of the district of Columbia," Fauntroy warned.

The case will be watched worldwide. Some political leaders in drug-torn Colombia say they view it as a test of whether President George Bush is serious about prosecuting drug users.

The centrepiece of the government's case is a videotape showing Barry smoking crack cocaine at the downtown Vista International Hotel Jan 18, where he was lured by ex-girlfriend and former model Rasheeda Moore, who was working with the FBI in a sting operation.

A plea agreement — even though it might mean Barry could not seek a fourth term — might be attractive to the mayor because the tape would likely be kept from the public eye.

Barry is accused of conspiracy to possess and use cocaine at least back to 1984, and using drugs in government offices and private residences in Washington, other cities and even overseas.

The only felony charges, three counts of perjury, involve Barry's testimony last year before a grand jury, in which he denied drug involvement with former city worker Charles Lewis.

Barry would be barred from holding office only if incarcerated after a felony conviction. Barry and defence lawyer R. Kenneth Mundy appear prepared to put the government on trial, and are hoping a jury will agree that Stephens overstepped legal and ethical limits in using a former girlfriend to lure Barry to the Vista, and then providing him with high-grade cocaine.

In pre-trial musing, Mundy claimed the government "manufactured the crime."

Ayacucho, Peru's synonym for terror

Birthplace of Shining Path rebel movement

AYACUCHO, Peru, June 3. (Reuters) "For 10 years I haven't felt calm for a single moment. Nor has anyone else here," said Father Gonzalo Leonardo, a Roman Catholic priest and school headmaster.

Once-peaceful Ayacucho, birthplace of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla movement, has spent the past decade under what one resident called a "psychosis of terror" caused by violence by guerrillas, security forces, and shadowy vigilante squads.

The city swarms with police and soldiers. At night sub-machinegun fire rattles on the outskirts and army trucks packed with troops rumble incessantly down the narrow streets.

People say they have grown to distrust their own friends and neighbours for fear of guerrilla informers.

The Maoist insurgency, launched 10 years ago, has transformed Ayacucho from a city known for its colourful religious festivities and folkloric art into the nation's synonym for terror.

"Before, when someone died, everybody went to the funeral. Now, with so much violence, people see a corpse in the street and walk right past without looking twice," said Leonardo.

Everyone in this city, 350 km (220 miles)

south of Lima, knows someone among the 19,000 who have been killed in the fighting, by either guerrillas, security forces or paramilitary squads that have sprung up in the past two years.

"People don't jump anymore when they hear gunfire or a bomb. It's become a part of daily life, part of our psychosis of terror," said Dario del Pozo, a former mayor of the city of 120,000 people nestling in the Andean foothills.

Shining Path, which sees itself as the only truly communist guerrilla group in the world, has fed on poverty and despair to bring parts of Peru's countryside to the brink of civil war.

The guerrillas chose the rugged hills outside Ayacucho to launch the insurgency, feeling they could capitalise on the region's high illiteracy and infant mortality rates and years of neglect by the political establishment.

"Ayacucho has always been frustrated and neglected. The terrorists have taken advantage of that feeling," said Del Pozo, who lives a few blocks from where guerrillas killed Ayacucho's Mayor, Fermin Azparren, last September.

The city's once solid tourism industry is in shambles.

Academics who used to come to study Indian customs and languages have been scared off. Western aid workers abandoned the area after Shining Path killed two French agronomists in 1988.

What little business investment there was before the guerrilla war has almost completely dried up.

With virtually no new construction, the rundown city has ironically preserved a certain colonial-era charm over the years, with few modern buildings to overshadow the splendid churches and Spanish-style villas.

But the war's effects on the minds of residents has cut deepest.

Children play a game called "terrorism," in which some pose as gun-toting guerrillas and others as police.

Their parents have been numbed not just by the violence but by the prospect that anyone in their midst could be a guerrilla informer.

"The party has a thousand eyes and a thousand ears," goes a Shining Path slogan, which most people in Ayacucho believe.

"Back in 1980, when this whole thing started, I knew Ayacucho was changing because people stopped talking in a direct way to each other, even with old friends," said Pedro Villena, rector of the city's San Cristobal de Humanga University.

Doherty gets new address

Eighth year in jail

NEW YORK, June 3, (AP): Irish Republican Army member Joe Doherty isn't leaving prison, but he's getting a new address—one his supporters hope will refocus attention on his case as he starts his eighth year in a US federal jail.

The New York City council this week is prepared to rename the street corner below his cell Joe Doherty Corner. The plan to honour Doherty, the convicted killer of a British army captain in 1980, has angered British officials who condemn him as a terrorist and a murderer.

Supporters of the name change, which is to remain in effect until Doherty is released, hope it will help free him.

"It is an abomination that Doherty should be held in a prison in our city as long as he has been," said Carolyn Maloney, the city councilwoman who proposed the change.

A city council committee and a local community board already have approved the proposal. The full council is expected to pass the measure at its Tuesday session.

Supporters hope to hold the official ceremony renaming the corner on June 18—the beginning of Doherty's eighth year at the jail.

"He's lived here as long, maybe longer, than most of the people in this neighbourhood," said Paul Goldstein, district manager of the community board that approved the name change.

Indeed, he has been in the metropolitan correctional centre longer than any other inmate in its history, longer than most of its guards. His seventh-floor cell and an orange prison jumpsuit are the fixtures in his life.

Doherty was unaware of the move to rename the intersection until last week, when his lawyer, Mary Pike, told him about it.

"He was visibly delighted. ... He's touched and delighted that the people of the city have seen fit to address the injustice of his situation," Pike said.

Three years earlier, Doherty was convicted of murder in the machine-gun slaying of a British army captain during an IRA ambush in Northern Ireland. Doherty escaped from a Belfast prison before his conviction, used a false passport to enter the United States and avoided capture for two years.

Britain wants him returned to finish his prison term. The US government under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush have supported the request but deportation has been blocked in the courts.

Supporters say Doherty is a freedom fighter entitled to political asylum. And the list of those supporters is impressive: New York Mayor David Dinkins, the city's Roman Catholic Cardinal John J. O'Connor and more than 100 members of the US Congress have called for his release.

EEC plans to buy up UK beef surplus

BRUSSELS, June 3, (Reuters): The European Economic Community (EEC) is struggling to defuse a fierce internal trade conflict triggered by French and West German bans on British beef imports caused by worries over 'mad cow disease.'

Officials said today that a crisis meeting of the bloc's 12 farm ministers on Wednesday could set the stage for Britain, under pressure from angry farmers who are losing millions of pounds, to retaliate if its partners refuse to cancel the bans.

The EEC in Brussels, meanwhile, is working on plans to buy up surplus British beef to support sagging prices caused by a slump in consumer demand. "The commission is considering measures to stabilise the market," a spokesman said today.

London is furious at last week's French and German decisions to keep out British beef and cattle on grounds that the disease, which has led to the destruction of some 14,000 cows since 1983, might pose risks to human health.

British officials said there was no such danger, and Agriculture Minister John Gummer accused Paris and Bonn at the weekend of imposing the bans for political, not health, reasons.

"The countries that ban British beef have done so in order to support their own market and protect their own farmers," Gummer told the British Broadcasting Corporation.

To make matters worse, Belgium's Health Ministry has advised against eating British beef, and EEC officials have said other countries, including Italy, are mulling whether to ban it.

Britain's Junior Agriculture Minister David Curry refused yesterday to rule out the possibility of tit-for-tat moves.

"The UK will clearly have to consider what action to take" if the rift was not healed at Wednesday's meeting, Curry said.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), attacks the brains and central nervous systems of cattle.

Scientists believe it has been caused by feeding cows, which naturally eat only vegetable matter, with offal from sheep infected with a disease called scrapie.

An escalation of the conflict would complicate EEC efforts to rid itself of trade barriers in the food sector under its drive to build a vast single market by the end of 1992.

Eighteen people were hurt in battles between riot police firing rubber bullets and thousands of farmers hurling artichokes and stones in central Madrid yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

Police charged on horseback to stop protesting farmers reaching the Agriculture Ministry, where they hoped to talk with Minister Carlos Romero on their grievances over agricultural policies.



Leader of thugs

Paul Scarrott, 34, of Nottingham, England, the self-styled leader of the British soccer thugs, raises his arm in front of the Colosseum in Rome. Security is tight for the World Cup due to soccer hooliganism. (Reuters wirephoto)

Coach tragedy

Eleven Britons killed

AUXERRE, France, June 3, (Reuters): Eleven British tourists were killed and 22 seriously injured today when a tyre on their double-decker coach blew out and sent it careening off a French motorway south of Paris, police said.

A further 39 of the 73 passengers, on their way home to Birmingham from a holiday in Spain, suffered minor injuries.

The driver of the blue and white Montego European coach, which French officials said was travelling at 125 kph (80 mph), apparently lost control when the tyre exploded.

"The reasons for this tragic accident are simple: a speed of 125 kph, a tyre that explodes, and here we have the result," said French junior transport minister George Sarre who went to the scene.

The coach, from the English county of Staffordshire, skidded onto the motorway for over 100 metres (yards), then overturned in a wheat field. It did not catch fire.

Hospital sources quoted survivors as saying the coach was heading for Dunkirk to catch a channel ferry home.

Rescue workers said a crane was called in to free victims trapped under the wreckage. They were taken to local hospitals and the dead were taken in wooden coffins to a morgue at Auxerre about 150 km (90 miles) south-east of Paris.



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Cannon shots fired

Yacht seized

WASHINGTON, June 3, (UPI): A Cuban gunboat commandeered an \$8 million Japanese-owned yacht yesterday, firing cannon shots over the vessel's bow in international waters and ordering it into a Cuban harbour, the boat's captain said.

The 145-foot (45-m) luxury yacht "Belebat Queen," owned by Island Future Corp. of Kobe, Japan, and registered in Britain, was 14 miles (23 km) north of Cuba when the Cuban ship approached and fired three shots, said the yacht's captain, Ian McCombe.

"They told us to stop. We did stop. Then they fired anyway," McCombe said from aboard the ship in a telephone interview with United Press International. The yacht was a half-mile (0.8 km) from the Cuban coast after following the gunboat for five hours. He said several of the Cubans had fired automatic weapons into the air, apparently to scare his crew.

"I just hope they don't get careless about where they're firing those guns," he said.

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Bhattarai against changing religions

KATMANDU, June 3. (UPI) Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, addressing a growing controversy over Nepal's religious future under its new democratic structure, today spoke out against proselytising and forced conversions.

"Under the present democratic dispensation, people should enjoy religious freedom and be engaged in spiritual activities according to their faith. But no one will be allowed to proselytise people by force or materialistic enticements," Bhattarai told a Hindu religious function.

Ninety per cent of Nepal's 19 million citizens are Hindu and, while there is freedom of worship in the Himalayan kingdom, conversions and preaching are banned and punishable as crimes.

A Christian mission consisting of British and US members arrived within the past week and met with senior government officials, including Bhattarai, to press their belief that the ban on proselytising should be lifted as part of Nepal's shift toward democracy.

Buddhists and Muslims also have demanded that Nepal's new constitution be secular, but there has been a strong backlash from majority Hindus who want the country to be declared a "Hindu kingdom."

The issue is being decided by the government's newly formed constitution recommendation commission, which is due to submit its recommendations in three months.

Bhattarai was named prime minister in April after he helped lead a seven-week series of strikes and demonstrations that prompted King Birendra to lift the monarchy's 29-year ban on political parties.

Also today, Parshu Narayan Chaudhary, a minister in the partyless Panchayat dispensation for eight years after defecting from the Nepali Congress Party, was expected to rejoin the party along with several other former members, sources close to the party said.

The Nepali Congress Party, many of whose members joined the Panchayat in the last 29 years, has asked its former workers to rejoin the mother organisation.

Chaudhary would be the most important figure from the Panchayat to rejoin the party, which led the seven-week opposition movement.



Plainclothes police stop a photographer from taking pictures near Tiananmen Square June 3. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fighting on eve of peace parleys

Khmers claim victory

BANGKOK, June 3. (AP) Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed major military successes across Cambodia on the eve of a Tokyo conference aimed at ending the country's 11-year-old war, according to media reports.

Fighting was reported by the various warring factions in at least eight Cambodian provinces in recent days, with the Khmer Rouge claiming victories near Phnom Penh, the capital, as well as areas of the northwest and southwest.

The Khmer Rouge claimed to have "liberated" more than 50 villages and routed government and Vietnamese troops in heavy fighting. The claims could not be immediately confirmed.

The two days of Cambodian peace talks are scheduled to begin Monday in the Japanese capital. The four warring sides are expected to announce a ceasefire but it might not be obeyed.

Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has

warned that fighting will continue despite a ceasefire agreement because he says it will not be observed by the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge were in power in Cambodia from 1975-1978, when they were ousted by a Vietnamese invasion. During the Khmer Rouge rule, hundreds of thousands of Cambodia's 8 million people died from executions, famine and civil unrest. The Vietnamese have since pulled most or all of their forces out of Cambodia.

"There will be a dangerous situation after the signing," Sihanouk said in an interview yesterday. "There will be peace on paper but not on the ground."

The Cambodian conflict pits the pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh against a three-party guerrilla coalition led by Sihanouk. The coalition includes the Khmer Rouge, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and Sihanouk's own followers.

Pact to cease Cambodia fighting

TOKYO, June 3. (Reuters) Two leaders of Cambodia's warring factions said they expect to sign a ceasefire agreement in Tokyo this week, but cited conditions likely to hinder rather than advance the two-year peace process.

Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnam-backed Cambodian government and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of a three-party guerrilla coalition, open two days of talks in Tokyo tomorrow aimed at achieving a breakthrough in peace talks.

In their first international peace initiative, Japanese leaders have set high hopes for a ceasefire pact to end 11 years of war in Cambodia. Planners behind the scene, however, say they are not expecting a major breakthrough in the process that began Jakarta in 1988.

On arrival in Tokyo today, Hun Sen said he had high expectations the talks would end with a pact to cease fighting in Cambodia. "I think there's a 90 per cent chance of success," he told reporters.

He said the outcome would depend on Sihanouk abiding by conditions set by the Japanese government — that talks take place only between Sihanouk and Hun Sen.

"There is a problem — some people are attempting to destroy the agreed-upon points for the Tokyo meeting," Hun Sen said, referring to demands by the Khmer Rouge, the strongest guerrilla faction, that it be allowed in on the signing of a peace pact.

Sihanouk said after his arrival in Tokyo yesterday that "no matter what, I will sign the agreement as I promised," according to a press release.

"But the agreement should be signed on a quadripartite basis." Apart from Hun Sen and Sihanouk, the four warring Cambodian groups include Sihanouk partners in a shaky three-way coalition, Son Sam, leader of a non-communist group, and Khieu Samphan, head of the powerful Khmer Rouge.

Sihanouk claimed that, despite Hanoi's declared withdrawal from Cambodia, 40,000 troops were still there, with more than one million Vietnamese settlers who had changed the border in their advantage.

He called for Phnom Penh to be demilitarised and multi-party elections under UN supervision, with participation by the Khmer Rouge. Western governments blame the Khmer Rouge for the deaths of more than one million Cambodians during its rule from 1975-79.

Hun Sen, whose troops control about 90 per cent of Cambodia, has repeatedly ruled out any role for the Khmer Rouge.

Khieu Samphan indicated he wanted a part in the Tokyo talks.

Minor incidents at Tiananmen Square

First anniversary of army crackdown

BEIJING, June 3. (AP) Defying heavy security, a Chinese man tried to display a protest poster today near Tiananmen Square to mark the anniversary of last year's army attack on pro-democracy protesters.

"Rise up," the man shouted to bystanders as police hauled him away. Hours later, someone threw handfuls of white paper money — a traditional offering to the dead — from a car as it drove past the square. Police immediately tried to shoo away bystanders and pick up the

Thousands of police and soldiers were stationed throughout the city to discourage commemoration of last year's protests, which ended when tens of thousands of troops fought their way through crowds of demonstrators to Tiananmen Square, killing hundreds, and possibly thousands, of the protesters.

The army assault on the Square, where the protesters had been based, started June 3 and lasted into June 4.

Today the square, the symbolic heart of Beijing, was closed to the public and encircled by paramilitary police.

"There will be small private gatherings," said a Chinese office worker in his 30s who stood near the square. "All we can do now is think. The memories are in our minds."

Dozens of official vehicles were parked in the square for much of the day as the leadership gathered in the adjoining Great Hall of the People to commemorate another event — the 150th anniversary of the 1840 opium war with Britain. The Communist Party regards the war as the start of foreign imperialist aggression against China.

Beijing's college campuses were quiet. At several, students said they had been told not to leave campus or to register if they did. Students said they were scared by the tight security.

"No one is going to make trouble for nothing," said one student at Beijing Normal University.

In a park in western Beijing, police broke up a crowd of about 40 Chinese at the English Corner, a place where people studying English gather each Sunday morning to practice. The police took five people away for questioning. Authorities ordered the Corner closed in October but English language students have continued to gather weekly with only token efforts by police to disperse them.

Last year's pro-democracy

paper. Police also took into custody a young woman who stuffed an 18-page essay into the pocket of West Germany ZDF Television reporter Christa Mahmann. Mahmann said the handwritten essay was difficult to read but appeared to be related to last year's military crackdown.

The small protests came despite the heaviest security seen in Beijing since martial law was lifted in January.

Tiananmen Square anniversary

Vatican praises protesters

VATICAN CITY, June 3. (AP) The Vatican newspaper yesterday praised the Chinese students who carried out pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square a year ago and said their movement would rise again.

The front-page editorial in L'Osservatore Romano was marking the first anniversary of the June 3 massacre of hundreds or thousands of the protesters by the Chinese Army.

"That night of fire and blood, although it appears a tremendous defeat really remains in history as the moment of a great beginning," the newspaper said.

It said the protesters' actions demonstrated that a new spirit had been born in young people.

who "are not afraid of offering themselves as witnesses for a future generation."

The editorial said that the young Chinese "faced up to their fear with creative audacity... they conquered their fear; they didn't manage to conquer their oppressors fear of the path of history."

The paper recalled a young Chinese man who stood before a column of tanks, trying to block them from going to crush the demonstrations. It called the person, whose picture has become famous world-wide, "a symbol of the choice of man before the machines of violence — the symbol of the future."

movement began in April with marches by Beijing college students and grew into a nationwide movement involving millions of workers, intellectuals and even some peasants.

Thousands of people were arrested nation-wide in the months that followed the June crackdown. Many remain jailed without charge.

Since then, only a few isolated protests have been attempted. But anger over the army attack remains widespread.

Canadian Broadcasting Corp. journalists said the man who unrolled the poster approached them as they stood beneath Tiananmen gate, just north of the Square. He appeared to be in his 50s and wore ordinary workers' clothes.

They were able to read only the poster's opening words. "To all foreign journalists: We have invented a new philosophy..." before police grabbed him and the poster, the reporters said.

The last such incident occurred in April, when a man in the Square tried to pin white paper flowers on his sleeve to commemorate the dead protesters. He was also arrested.

The shouts of soldiers practicing

ing martial arts near the Square could be heard throughout the day, and smaller groups drilled prominently in compounds elsewhere in the city centre.

Hundreds of police sat in parks and pedestrian underpasses near the Square. Seventeen trucks filled with soldiers were parked on a major road in northern Beijing, and smaller convoys circled campuses.

More than a dozen security personnel, including plainclothes and uniformed police, guarded a small statue of a dancing girl at an intersection where fighting was heaviest last year. For several days after the attack, local residents turned the statue into a memorial for the dead, draping it with flowers and poems.

In Hong Kong, at least 100,000 people many wearing the traditional Chinese mourning colour of white, marched through Hong Kong today to show their grief for the dead of Tiananmen Square and to call for democracy in China.

It was the highest political rally in the British colony since a series of demonstrations in support of the student-led pro-democracy movement in China a year ago.

March organisers claimed some 250,000 people had taken part, but senior police officers disputed the figure, saying the crowd numbered between 75,000 and 100,000.

Whatever the final figure, the turnout of 30,000 predicted by the organisers earlier today, and reflected what observers say is continuing anger here over the crushing of the pro-democracy movement.

Beijing's brutal suppression of the movement on June 4 last year, in which hundreds if not thousands were killed, triggered a huge display of anger and fear in Hong Kong, which is due to return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

In Taipei, about 400 Taiwanese rallied in the rain in a park today to commemorate the first anniversary of the military suppression of the pro-democracy movement in China.

Organisers set up an altar in the park for victims who died when troops moved against demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square last June. Meanwhile, students launched a petition drive and sold T-shirts in support of the democracy movement on the mainland.

In Sydney, Australia, thousands of Chinese students and their supporters held peaceful but highly emotional demonstrations throughout Australia today to mark the first anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Commemorations included speeches, poetry readings, recordings from Tiananmen, live theatrical performances and all-night vigils outside Chinese missions.

The national co-ordinator, Zhang Xue Dong, said students would light candles throughout Sunday night outside the new Chinese embassy building in Canberra. Large demonstrations also were held today in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide, he said.

At the centre of the Tokyo rally was a symbolic gravestone decorated with white flowers and the words: "Spirit of the martyrs sacrificed in June 4 in Tiananmen."

A Japanese literature student from Beijing, Wu Weifeng, said turnout was light because people were disappointed in the organising groups or felt that demonstrating would not help the democracy movement in China.

After the gathering, demonstrators marched for two hours to a church for talk, music and a show of paintings mourning the dead.

In a Tokyo park were wreaths and banners in Chinese and Japanese saying, "Long live freedom and democracy in Tiananmen Square" and "The June 4 massacre is the world's shame."

About 200 Chinese, many of them students, joined in the Tokyo demonstration.



Demonstrators set fire to a caricature of Chinese leader Li Peng June 3 outside the Chinese Consulate General in Sydney. (Reuters wirephoto)

From funnies to film

Here comes Dick Tracy

LOS ANGELES, June 3. (AP) "Dick Tracy" the movie opens in nearly 2,000 theatres June 15 amid a media megabiz that rivals last summer's "Batman."

But will Warren Beatty's film about the square-jawed flatfoot with the yellow fedora match the \$255-million domestic gross amassed by the caped crusader?

Fingers crossed. Walt Disney Co. is tossing a huge premiere at Disney World in Florida with 3,000 journalists expected to attend. Following trailers that have appeared in 2,000 theatres since Christmas, TV commercials will be unleashed on the nation's networks. Merchandise, including Tracy's wrist-watch radio, will flood the market.

But sceptics point to some negatives. The comic strip Dick Tracy, once featured in 500 newspapers, now appears in 150 and is little known by today's young, moviegoing audience. What's worse, the young crowd hardly knows Beatty, 53, who had made only two films in nine years. The last being the quintessential bomb "Ishtar."

His other was the critically acclaimed "Reds" in 1981. He co-starred with Diane Keaton and received an Academy Award for best director.

Another problem is that although "Dick Tracy" co-star Madonna may be a megastar in pop music, her last few movies were megadisasters: "Sbahanghi Surprise" and "Who's That Girl?"

Nevertheless, Barrie Osborne, executive producer of "Dick Tracy," takes an upbeat view.

"The picture should attract a wide audience because it can be appreciated on different levels," he said in an interview. "The younger audience can enjoy the prosthetic characters (gruffface, flatfoot, etc.), lots of action and beautiful colour. And they certainly know Madonna."

"The older audience can appreciate the wit and the appearance of the film — much of it was derived from post-expressionist paintings — a 'three penny opera' — Bertolt Brecht look... and Warren can bring that audience as well."

Disney plans to issue graphic novels — spruced-up comic books — of "Dick Tracy" to bring some sort of awareness to the movie and character.

"Dick Tracy" was the creation of Chester Gould, who drew cartoons for Chicago papers. Originally entitled "Plainclothes Tracy," the strip about a hawk-oozed, straight-arrow detective debuted in October 1931 in the Detroit Mirror and New York Daily News.

The comic strip featured blood, bullets and a menacing menagerie of villains with memorable names. Flatfoot, Flyface, Measles, Mumbles

and more have threatened the intrepid two-fisted Tracy for nearly 60 years.

Tracy, his sweetheart Tess Trueheart and his grotesque enemies became American icons in the 1930s and '40s. Low-budget movies and serials and a short-run TV series helped fuel the country's fascination with Gould's denizens of the underworld.

"Dick Tracy" according to Beatty, had its beginnings in 1977 when producers Art Linson and Floyd Mutrux bought film rights. They made a deal with Paramount Pictures, which enlisted Universal Pictures to co-produce. Various packages were proposed, including projects with directors Steven Spielberg, John Landis, Richard Benjamin and Walter Hill, and stars Harrison Ford, Clint Eastwood, Richard Gere, Tom Selleck and Mel Gibson.

Beatty became involved in 1983, but Paramount reportedly balked at his pay demands. Five years later, Michael Eisner and Jeff Katzenberg had moved from Paramount to Disney, and they revived "Tracy" with Beatty, adding certain fiscal restraints.

No one at Disney is saying how much "Dick Tracy" cost. Reports range from \$23 to 30 million, considerably less than other summer epics such as "Total Recall," "Die Hard 2" and "Days of Thunder."

"It was a modestly budgeted film" insists executive producer Osborne, a veteran of such bloated budgets as "Apocalypse Now" and "The Cotton Club." Both made by Francis Coppola.

Osborne, 46, had not worked previously with Beatty, but he soon learned how the producer-director-star operated.

"Warren acts as a conductor," said Osborne. "He is very collaborative, likes to get people together and listen to their ideas. Then he selects what he wants."

"The look of the film was his idea. He wanted to achieve the same quality of the Sunday comic strip. When there was a red, it was the same red throughout, the same green, etc. It took some convincing when (cinematographer) Vittorio Storaro and (production designer) Richard Sylbert came on board."

A major attraction of "Dick Tracy" is the appearance of well-known stars in wild make-ups. Osborne believes. They go unbillied, but their identities are an open secret: All Pacino as mob boss big boy Caprice. Dustin Hoffman as Mumbles, James Caan as Ribs.

Among those who are billed: Glenn Headly, Tess Trueheart, Mandy Patinkin, 88 Keys, Charles Durning, police chief Brandon, William Forsythe, Flatfoot, Dick Van Dyke, the district attorney, Paul Sorvino, Lips Manlis, Estelle Parsons, Mrs. Trueheart.

Strained Paris-Beijing ties causes heartache for Wang Du's wife

PARIS, June 3. (Reuters) Strained relations between China and France — which has extended a warm welcome to dissident Chinese exiles in the past year — have caused nothing but heartache to one Frenchwoman.

She is the wife of a Chinese painter who diplomats say could face up to 15 years in jail.

"It's all because of our marriage, because he has a French wife," Agnes Gaudu, a journalist and writer, said in an interview.

Seven days after their marriage, she said, her husband Wang Du was arrested at Canton University while applying for a passport.

She said he was eventually charged with counter-revolutionary incitement and propaganda, one of the heaviest charges opponents of the government can face. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to up to 15 years in jail or hard labour.

According to diplomatic sources, it was because of this that a high-level visit to Beijing aimed at improving the strained ties between China and France was cancelled in April.

Relations between the two countries have plummeted since June last year, when some of China's most wanted dissidents streamed to France and were given safe-haven.

Government envoy Jean de Cypkowksi

was to have gone to China in April with the specific mission of finding ways of putting relations on a normal footing again, but he called off the trip.

Gaudu, a Chinese-speaker now aged 31, met Wang Xuezhong — better known under his artist's name, Wang Du — in Canton in the autumn of 1988 while collecting material for a book on life in China which was published in France last year.

"It was very much a case of love at first sight," she said.

Then 32, Wang Du was the son of a miner and his illiterate wife from central China.

Sent to work in the countryside at the age of 16 under the cultural revolution, the

self-taught artist and sculptor then worked for eight years in a stone quarry before passing exams that allowed him to enrol and graduate from a Canton art school.

Gaudu said that like much of China's youth, Wang Du had joined the protesters last year when students and workers took to the streets in the pro-democracy protests which shook China until the bloody military crackdown last June.

But at no time was he a dissident leader, she added.

In the summer of 1989, he filled out the obligatory report the Chinese had to write on their activities during the "Beijing spring," but thought that was where the matter would end, she said.

INTERNATIONAL

Goal is simple: unstable China

Chinese dissidents

BEIJING, June 3, (AP): An hour before dawn, a college dropout pastes notices onto alley walls and slips them through mail slots.

"Citizens who want China to be strong and prosperous, destroy this national impasse and struggle for China's future," they say.

A red stamp proclaims the notices to be from the committee of the Mainland Alliance for democracy, "Lie Ma, director." Lie Ma is the collective pseudonym of the group's six members.

"Chinese people are gossips," said the college dropout, one of the six. "Leave one notice and pretty soon the whole neighbourhood knows. If it's an old woman who finds it even better. You can always rely on her to talk."

Tiananmen

Back to honour the dead

BEIJING, June 3, (Reuters): Among the strollers near Beijing's Tiananmen Square today was a young surgeon who took part in last year's pro-democracy movement and came back to remember.

"I am here to honour those who fell," he said.

The doctor said he had worked to save the lives of nine people shot by troops during the night of June 3-4 when tanks crashed down city streets and soldiers fired on demonstrators.

"One of them still lives with shrapnel in his chest," said the doctor, who spoke on condition he not be named. He said all of his patients survived.

A medical colleague was shot dead near Tiananmen in the early hours of June 4, he said. He was among hundreds, perhaps thousands, killed.

Accompanying the doctor today was his cousin, a man in his late 20s who said he had come from China's rural southeast to visit Tiananmen on the first anniversary of the massacre.

The doctor said he went to Tiananmen every day during the seven weeks of euphoria when pro-democracy students held sway over the square and the Chinese leadership, divided over what to do, was inert.

"The Chinese people have so little power. We are waiting for the deaths of the top leadership, and then things may change," the doctor said.

He criticised the United States for taking what he considered a lenient stance towards the Beijing government in the aftermath of the crackdown.

"I hate (US President) George Bush, he should have been firmer with the Chinese leaders," the doctor said. "But no matter what he does he has no influence over them anyway."

He said he expected perhaps a few isolated acts of protest, but nothing organised because security throughout Beijing was so tight.

Troops cordoned off most of the 100-acre (40.5 hectare) square and patrolled the tree-shaded periphery. One Chinese who attempted to speak to a foreign student in the area was taken away by police.

Earlier, a man who approached foreign journalists with a poster was arrested. The journalists were unable to read it all, but one line said: "We have invented a new philosophy..."

Another Beijing resident who was active in the movement also came to pay homage. She said she was on her way to church to pray for last year's dead.

He said the goal is simple. "We want to create an unstable situation in Beijing."

One year after the army crushed the largest demonstrations under communist rule, muffled but persistent voices of discontent continue to rise from underground, defying stringent security measures.

The Mainland Alliance is one of several tiny groups formed to continue the democracy movement that was silenced above ground when soldiers fired on demonstrators in Beijing last June 3-4.

Some groups are known only from crudely mimeographed political manifestos distributed hand-to-hand, or from typed leaflets left in public places.

One leaflet is signed simply, "a group of Beijing citizens and students." Other underground activists have approached foreign journalists in Beijing, hoping to spread their message and discomfit the nation's ageing leaders.

A group in western China calls itself the Chinese Democratic Front, apparently in imitation of the Chinese exile group based in Paris, which the Chinese government made famous by criticising it. The domestic front says it has no contact with the Paris group.

The Democratic Front for the Salvation of China, led by one of last year's student protest leaders, Zhai Weimin, announced its formation in March.

Zhai's group is unusual because he remains in hiding, fugitive No. 6 on a government list of the 21 most-wanted student leaders.

Most other underground activists lead normal, open lives as students, workers, professors and even police officials.

The picture that emerges from talks with underground activists and other Chinese sources is of separate groups, each with six to 12 members, in at least half a dozen major cities.

These are not the first underground political groups to exist since the Communist Party gained power in 1949, but taken collectively, they may be the largest such movement.

There is no nationwide network. Some groups are aware of the activities of others or have occasional contacts, but they prefer to operate in isolation and rely only on trusted friends.

They are tightly knit, inexperienced and fearful, but they are learning, the college dropout said.

When he arrived for an interview, two friends were posted nearby to watch for plainclothes police. He said the group's equipment includes invisible ink and a few mimeograph machines smuggled out of last spring's protest headquarters on Tiananmen Square.

A public security official is the committee's mainstay, but not a member. He has taught the six how to recognise plainclothes officers and police vehicles, how to evade tails and what to do if questioned by security officials.



A 31-year-old man rests in hospital after accidentally exploding a hand grenade while rummaging in a Manila area garbage dump June 2. (Reuter wirephoto)

US Navy lieutenant slain near Subic Bay

OLONGAPO, Philippines, June 3, (AP): Two masked men fatally stabbed a US navy lieutenant in his home near the Subic Bay Naval Base in an apparent robbery, police said today.

US officials ordered all Navy personnel restricted to the US-run base following the Saturday night attack but lifted the restrictions today after determining the killing was not political.

Lt. Richard Brown, 33, assigned to the Navy supply depot at Subic, was having a meal in his apartment when the assailants barged in about 10.45 pm (1345 GMT), police said.

The assailants locked up the three Filipino women beauticians inside a room and threatened to kill everyone if they resisted, police said.

Police said the assailants, whose faces were covered with T-shirts, fled after ransacking the apartment. The women managed to free themselves and found Brown's bloodied body in the dining room. It was stolen.

Security have been stepped up around Subic and the five other US bases following the killing of three American service members in the past month.

Suspected rebels killed Marine gunnery Sgt. John Fredette May 4 in this city 80 kms (50 miles) west of Manila. On May 13, two US airmen were slain near Clark Air Base.

The New People's Army claimed responsibility for killing the airmen but has issued no statement on the Fredette slaying.

The rebels have been waging a 21-year insurgency to establish a Marxist state and have threatened more attacks on Americans until all US troops leave the Philippines.

In Bacolod, 300 miles (470 kilometres) south of Manila, Brig. Gen. Raymond Jarque warned that the rebels may target foreign government and private relief workers throughout the Philippines to discourage foreign assistance.

Last Tuesday, suspected rebels abducted Fumio Mizuno, 36, training director of Japan's Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement, at Silkworm farm near Bacolod.

"The reason for the abduction of Mizuno was to stop foreign aid in the province," he said. Military sources said they believe Mizuno is alive but they have received no message from his abductors.

Staffers of Mizuno's organisation told reporters they asked retired Negros Bishop Antonio Fortich to help contact the rebels to secure Mizuno's release.

Fortich had been a controversial figure in Negros because of his contacts with the rebels and support for social reform.

Japanese abducted Manila threatens

BACOLOD, Philippines, June 3, (UPI): Government officials threatened today to launch a military operation to rescue a Japanese rural development officer believed kidnapped by communist guerrillas in central Negros island.

"If we don't believe any official communication from them very soon, we will move militarily," Negros occidental Governor Daniel Lacson said. "We cannot wait too long without moving in trying to recover him safe and alive."

Lacson said no ransom note had been received and civilian emissaries were still trying to establish contact with communist New People's Army rebels, who were believed to have kidnapped Fumio Mizuno, 36, last Tuesday.

Four armed men abducted Mizuno, training director of the Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement, at a sericulture project in Murcia Town, 300 miles (480 km) south of Manila, police said.

OISCA is a non-government agency helping poor farmers in the impoverished sugar-producing island.

"We can move immediately," Lacson told reporters. "There are enough troops in Negros Occidental and ... we will have to use the military to scour the area to see if we can rescue Mizuno."

Lacson said, however, that government officials will exhaust all peaceful means to obtain Mizuno's release before taking military action.

Australian navy patrol saves 79 boat people

Cambodian refugees in Darwin

DARWIN, June 3, (UPI): An Australian navy patrol ship rescued 79 Cambodian refugees just before their boat sank north of Darwin, navy officials said today.

Forty-five men, 17 women and 17 children were brought to Darwin, where they were being interviewed by Australian immigration officials, the navy officials said.

The refugees were classified as "unauthorised arrivals" and were being held in a camp near Darwin pending the completion of their interviews, the officials said.

A navy spokesman said the refugees' 49-foot (15m) vessel was first sighted Friday by a coastal surveillance aircraft when the Royal Australian Navy patrol ship HMS Townsville was diverted to the area, 160 nautical miles northwest of Darwin.

Upon reaching the stricken boat, the Townsville reported that it was taking on water, sinking and offloading its passengers.

The spokesman said there were no medical emergencies on board the ship, although its passengers were suffering from malnutrition, fever, diarrhoea and seasickness.

Muslim families flee Tamil terror

COLOMBO, June 3, (Kuna): About 200 Sri Lankan Muslims, men, women and children have fled to Colombo from the eastern province following acts of terrorism by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a powerful Tamil militant group, according to a complaint made to the country's President, Ranasinghe Premadasa, by the leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, Mohamed Ashraff.

The complaint says "more than 15 of young (Muslim) men have been shot dead by the LTTE and even their bodies were refused to be given to their relatives for interment according to religious rites."

The letter of complaint added "the LTTE has now started killing its own active Muslim supporters. So far at least three were killed in the (eastern) Batticaloa and Ampara districts. This drastic decision appears to have been taken in the wake of those few Muslims who joined the LTTE deserting them."

Ashraff has named nine Muslims who he claims are held captive at Batticaloa and (eastern) Kalmunai LTTE camps.

A Sri Lanka owned tanker carrying 127,000 metric tonnes of crude oil for Colombo, which had developed trouble in her main engine is now drifting off the coast of Bombay, official sources said.

Police said the assailants, whose faces were covered with T-shirts, fled after ransacking the apartment. The women managed to free themselves and found Brown's bloodied body in the dining room. It was stolen.

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Fortich had been a controversial figure in Negros because of his contacts with the rebels and support for social reform.

Mandela to tackle De Klerk gains on extensive foreign tour

CAPE TOWN, June 3, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela begins his most extensive foreign tour tomorrow, travelling through Africa, Europe and America to try to undo gains made by extremist white President F.W. de Klerk on a trip to Europe last month.

Mandela, leader of the anti-apartheid African National Congress (ANC), said last week he would make De Klerk regret his 18-day visit to eight European Community (EC) nations and Switzerland.

"I am visiting almost every capital he visited and I can assure you that after I have spoken there he will regret his visit to Europe," Mandela said at an ANC rally.

ANC officials said today that Mandela would fly to neighbouring Botswana tomorrow at the start of a six-week tour to 13 countries including Britain, Canada and the United States.

A South African government source said Pretoria assumed Mandela would be given a hero's welcome, but that he would also be confronted in private meetings with economic realities.

"The lionisation of Mandela is far from over, but I can tell you that the governments and businessmen of Europe will also want to hear from him how he plans to protect the economy from the mess that has happened elsewhere in Africa," he said.

Mandela is scheduled to address the United Nations and US Congress during 10 days in the United States that could include a ticker-tape parade through Manhattan.

South African political analysis said Mandela would try to regain the political initiative taken from him and the ANC by the phased dismantling of apartheid and De Klerk's sincerity, accepted everywhere in Europe, about political reform.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Plane collide, 4 dead: Four Belgians were killed on Saturday when two planes collided while filming an airline commercial.

Those who died were aboard a Piper Aerostar light aircraft which crashed after a collision with a 50-seater Brasilia plane belonging to America's Delta Airlines.

The bigger plane, carrying an unknown number of crew but no passengers, managed to land despite being badly damaged.

A police spokesman said the two planes collided over Deurne airport just outside Antwerp. (Reuters)

Joyride ends in disaster: Two children and one adult suffered serious injuries when the helicopter taking them on a joyride they had won in a competition crashed Saturday, only metres away from a busy bus-market, killing the pilot, police said in Moosburg, West Germany.

At the Moosburg airfield, the father of an 11-year-old boy who was in the chopper watched in horror as the helicopter crashed to the ground, skidded almost 100 metres along the runway and broke into flames. (UPI)

Bomb damages Swedish church: A bomb explosion, possibly connected with a wave of attacks against refugees, blasted two holes in the outer wall of a church in a southern Swedish town early on Sunday.

Police said nobody was hurt in the explosion at the Cross Church in Mariestad, where a refugee hostel was vandalised and daubed with racist slogans on May 25.

Swedish radio said the church was one of several which featured in a demonstration in support of refugees last Friday. Churches are playing a prominent role in helping an estimated 40,000 foreigners who have applied to stay in Sweden. (Reuters)

Burglary at Westminster Abbey: A thief broke through a 13th century stained glass window in Westminster Abbey and stole 1,300 pounds (\$2,200) from a collection box, police said Saturday.

The donations were for the abbey's restoration. The police said they believed the thief reached the window at night by climbing scaffolding put up for the building work outside the abbey's St. George's Chapel.

Scotland Yard police headquarters said the raid took place on Tuesday but they would not say why news of it was released immediately. No arrest was reported. (AP)

Angolan cops beat Portuguese scribe: A Portuguese journalist was beaten by police at a roadblock checkpoint and later jailed in the Angolan capital Luanda, a day after the Marxist government demanded his dismissal, the reporter's wife said Saturday.

Joao Serra, a stringer reporter for the Portuguese news agency Lusa, was detained at 3.30 am (2.30 GMT) as he and his wife were returning home from a dinner. Maria Helena Serra told the Associated Press by telex from Luanda.

Mrs Serra said her husband, who was carrying valid papers permitting him to be out during the capital's eight-hour curfew was badly beaten around his head and kicked and punched by six police officers at the control in a downtown square. (AP)

Mayors boycott Delebarre: French Transport Minister Michel Delebarre stared at empty chairs on Saturday as village mayors boycotted the opening ceremony for a new road made useless because a bridge over it is too low. (Reuters)



An ageing breed

Communists are an ageing breed in Czechoslovakia. At one of the final campaign rallies for the Communist Party before elections next week held in the industrial city of Ostrava, May 31, few attending were under 50. (Reuter wirephoto)

Italians vote on hunting: Italians went to the polls Sunday to decide the fate of a complex, green-backed referendum on hunting, but officials were concerned that most citizens are so confused by the wording of the issue that they may elect to stay at home.

Polling places opened Sunday morning throughout Italy, a nation which boasts 1.5 million fervent hunters who each year kill massive quantities of migrating small birds — most of which end up on dinner tables up and down the peninsula. (UPI)

Asia

France admits nuke test: France in an unprecedented statement said it carried out a nuclear test at its Pacific testing site at Mururoa Saturday, an official said.

The energy unleashed by the explosion was less than 15 kilotons, said the brief statement by Jean Montpezat, high commissioner for French Polynesia. The atomic test was carried out at 7.30 am said the statement.

The statement marked the first time France announced officially it has carried out a nuclear test though it is known to have carried out many others in the past, invoking the wrath of environmental groups. (UPI)

Diouf in Philippines: Senegal President Abdou Diouf arrived in the Philippines on Sunday for a three-day visit and talks with President Corason Aquino on the Muslim separatist problem in the south.

"We hope his visit will result in greater understanding of the Philippine position among member nations of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)," Aquino said in her weekly radio programme. (Reuters)

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INTERNATIONAL

Reforms to take 10 years: Yazov

Soviet military readiness despite easing of tensions

MOSCOW, June 3. (Reuters): Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov warned today the country had to maintain military readiness despite easing tensions in Europe, and said it would take a decade to complete new reforms of the armed forces.

The reforms must be planned and carried out in such a way that they do not damage the armed forces' defence capacity and battle-readiness," Yazov wrote in a long article in the army daily Krasnaya Zvezda.

"We calculate that the current reforms will take from nine to 10 years to carry

out," he said, outlining plans to trim the military, raise efficiency and improve the system of command in what he called the most profound reforms ever of the Soviet armed forces.

In May, Yazov pledged to reform the armed forces after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev criticised the military and called for a re-examination of its role.

The Soviet military, formed by the Bolsheviks after the 1917 revolution as the Red Army, expanded rapidly from the 1950s to become a powerful offensive force.

But East-West détente and the collapse of communist governments in Eastern Europe have led to big troop cuts and withdrawals, forcing it into a primarily defensive role.

Senior ranks are becoming more concerned about the economic and political crisis gripping the country and are wary of the cuts being made in the military budget to help domestic reforms.

Thousands of young men from the rebellious Baltic republics and the Transcaucasus have gone into hiding in recent months rather than be conscripted for the

obligatory two years' military service.

One proposed reform involves a gradual move from mass conscription to forming a partly professional army and navy.

Yazov wrote that the plans also include converting military plants to civilian production, improving the preparedness of the armed forces and ensuring a radical improvement in living conditions for all military personnel.

"One of the main problems... is changing the system of recruitment into the army and the possible change to service on a voluntary basis," Yazov said.

Norway monarch suffers stroke

OSLO, June 3. (UPI): Doctors treating Norway's King Olav V said today the hospitalised 86-year-old monarch has suffered a stroke but was awake and had spoken to physicians.

A medical bulletin on the condition of the world's oldest reigning monarch said the stroke had paralysed part of the king's left side.

King Olav was admitted to hospital last Tuesday with an inflamed pericardium — the sac which surrounds the heart. On Friday, doctors said the inflammation had receded, but late Saturday a bulletin was issued saying Olav's condition had deteriorated.

"The king's condition worsened, resulting in a paralysis of his left side. The king suffered a stroke and a blood vessel clogged on the left side of his brain," said a medical bulletin from the national teaching hospital Rikshospitalet today.

The bulletin went on to say the king's condition was unstable and the next few days would be decisive.

The national news agency NTB said Norway's Crown Prince Harald, 53, who is first in succession to the Norwegian throne, was holding a vigil at his father's bedside.

If Olav fails to recover, the Norwegian constitution dictates that Harald should assume royal powers in his father's place.

Olav was born at Sandringham in Britain July 2, 1903. His father was the younger son of Denmark's later King Christian X and his mother, Princess Maud, was the daughter of King Edward VII of Britain.

Olav ascended the throne of Norway in Sept 1957 after the death of his father, King Haakon VII.

Haakon, born a Danish prince, was invited to create a separate Norwegian monarchy when Norway and Sweden dissolved their union in 1905.

An avid sportsman and endearingly called the "sailing sovereign," Olav won a gold medal for his prowess as a yachtsman in a sloop at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.

He has also been an official yachting umpire during several Olympic games.

Olav V is an experienced skier, previously frequently seen practising the national Norwegian sport in the imposing mountains above the national capital, Oslo, and an accomplished swordsman.

As crown prince, Olav and his family escaped the clutches of evading and advancing Nazis, hiding in barns and fields for two months before eventually travelling to Britain with King Haakon whence Norway's resistance to German occupation was co-ordinated.

Crown Princess Martha, Olav's Swedish-born wife, died in 1954.

Immediately prior to his hospitalisation Tuesday, Olav had spent several days travelling throughout Norway commemorating the 50th anniversary of the defeat in Norway of German forces.

Further medical bulletins on the king's condition were expected later today. Norway's Prime Minister Jan P. Syse today postponed departure for an official visit to Poland, saying he would not leave until the king's condition became clear.

Anti-drug police conference ends

SOFIA, Bulgaria, June 3. (AP): Senior police officials from Interpol and nine European countries ended a two-day meeting yesterday on ways to disrupt the "Balkan connection" and reduce the flow of illicit drugs to West Europe.

Participants told reporters that while much of the narcotics smuggled into Western Europe originates in or is transported through the Balkans, less than 10 per cent is intercepted in southeastern Europe.

Police officials from West Germany, Bulgaria, Greece, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria, Hungary and Turkey participated, along with representatives from Interpol.



People power

Rebel Lithuania, under economic blockade by the Kremlin, said on Saturday it would mainly limit dwindling petrol supplies to emergency vehicles, food delivery and agricultural machinery.

The blockade would badly hit the republic's agricultural harvest, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told a meeting of the pro-independence Sąjūdis Movement.

He said fuel reserves for agricultural machinery were a fraction of what was needed.

"(Late) summer is harvesting time and Landsbergis said

there would be serious problems running the agricultural machinery," a Sąjūdis official said from Vilnius.

Landsbergis said virtually no petrol would be set aside for private transport as Lithuania battles against Moscow's blockade, imposed seven weeks ago in an effort to force the republic to rescind its March 11 declaration of independence.

Above Lithuanians go around Vilnius on bicycles as there is no more fuel available for private cars. (Reuters wirephoto)

Russo-Lithuania pact

Official foresees problems

WASHINGTON, June 3. (Reuters): Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said today that the breakthrough, republic would soon sign a trade agreement with the Russian Federation led by Boris Yeltsin.

But within minutes of the comment a senior Soviet Foreign Ministry official said if Yeltsin, a maverick populist elected president of the Russian federation's parliament, signed such a pact he would have "problems" with the Soviet Union.

Vitaly Churkin, a top aide to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, said on the same programme that if Lithuania acted in its present declared status as an independent nation "then he'll (Yeltsin) have problems with the Soviet Union because we have the constitution."

Speaking on the last day of the US-Soviet summit in Washington, Churkin said upholding the Soviet constitution was a "central, pivotal" point of the matter, and it is President (Mikhail) Gorbachev's duty to do that.

He said to avoid problems over the issue Lithuania would need to suspend its declaration of independence and not act on trade as a foreign country.

Gorbachev has ordered an economic blockade of Lithuania in an attempt to force it to retract or at least suspend its March 11 declaration of independence.

The Soviet leader has made clear he wants Lithuania to recognise the validity of the Soviet constitution and a new restrictive Soviet law on secession.

Lithuanian officials later said the meeting marked the first step on a road to long-term economic co-operation and establishment of formal relations.

Landsbergis stopped short of criticising President George Bush for signing a trade agreement with the Soviet Union on Friday. Bush had previously said he was reluctant to move ahead until the Soviet Union ended its economic crackdown on Lithuania.

Landsbergis, interviewed on NBC television, said Lithuania, which has declared its independence from the Soviet Union may sign the agreements with the Russian Federation before signing one with the Soviet Union.

"We want to do trade with both Russia and the Ukraine, and other parts of the Soviet Union, because they themselves are not happy with the way the Kremlin is working," he said in the interview from Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital.



Golans' protest

The golans, an anarchic mix of street protesters, fell silent for the first time in a month when an earthquake hit Bucharest last Wednesday.

Two minutes later a voice over a loudspeaker denounced the quake as a ploy by President Ion Iliescu and Romania's National Salvation Front government to clear them off the capital's busiest road.

"The Front and Iliescu bring earthquakes to their rescue" ran a free translation.

Iliescu spawned a movement when he coined the word golans (hooligans) to describe a band of anti-communists, students and drifters — usually outnumbered by curious bystanders.

They began the demonstration that turned into Bucharest's longest-running street theatre on April 22. In the following weeks they defied police, not police, the rain, the mayor, the prime minister, the president and finally the quake to become, by June, an institution.

Their beginning was simple. A hundred students roped off a section of Bucharest's busiest road and started a round-the-clock protest and political teach-in full of song, noise, posters, guest speakers and general good humour.

"Jos comunismu!" (down with communism) was their battle cry, repeated endlessly, day and night. "Jos iliescu," they shouted too but the ex-Communist president's "golans" tag was the making of them.

Above protesters shout slogans in front of the US embassy in Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet's Tetris hooks players from America to Japan

NEW YORK, June 3. (AP): Video game junkies now have an alternative to the zapping, blasting and pulverising of the shoot-'em-up adventures popular on the fantasy screen.

Tetris, an addictive brain-twisting game, has no combat, no karate chops, no chases and no characters. Not even a story line like the super Mario brothers.

This video cerebral challenge features building blocks — Soviet blocks, that is. Created by a Soviet scientist, Tetris is the first communist bloc video game to hit it big in the free market.

"It's a moving puzzle," said Richard Epstein, 43, of Parsippany, New Jersey. "When I can't sleep, instead of reading a book, I play Tetris."

"I like the action games, but this is the first real strategy game," said David Rodriguez, 16, of New York City. "You just can't stop."

Since its introduction to the world two years ago,

Tetris sales have sizzled. About 4 million copies are in use in homes, offices and arcades, mostly in the United States and Japan. The US Software Publishers Association gave it four awards last year, including best original game and best entertainment programme.

Its creator is chain-smoking Alexey Pajitnov, 35, a researcher at the Academy of Sciences in Moscow who developed it in his spare time on his home computer, which is as rare as a well-stocked food shelf in his homeland.

"When people started to play, they couldn't stop," Pajitnov told an interviewer on a tour of the United States earlier this year. "This game was like a fire."

Tetris is somewhat of an electronic Rubik's cube, and its creator prefers wizardry to war.

"I don't like the violent games. I hate shooting

games," Pajitnov said. "My idea is to make constructive games, not one where you destroy things."

Tetris features seven geometric figures — rods, squares, zigzags, L-shapes and a squat T — each made up of four blocks. The name is derived from the Greek word "Tetra," which means four.

A shape selected at random falls on the screen, and the player can turn it on its side, steer where it goes and control how fast it falls. The object is to arrange the falling blocks in solid rows across the width of the screen, something that appeals to obsessive-compulsive and problem-solvers.

Filling in all the blanks does two things: it scores points and also makes the line disappear to allow room for more shapes.

If the blanks aren't filled in, the blocks pile up like bricks in a wall. The game goes on until the screen fills up, which can take minutes or hours, depending

on skill levels.

The game was adapted to personal computer software by a comrade, a teen-age "hacker," or Russian for hacker. It spread to Eastern Europe and then to England, where an enterprising London capitalist scooped up the rights and peddled it to Spectrum Holobyte of Alameda, California, which marketed the game for personal computers.

Since 1988, Spectrum has sold 150,000 copies at \$40 each.

But the real action came last fall when Tetris became available on the Nintendo Entertainment System, which controls 80 per cent of the US home video market and has been the hottest selling Christmas toy three years in a row.

About 1.5 million Tetris games at \$35 each were sold in the past six months, the company said.



A young man writhes in agony seconds after he was injured in a bomb explosion in the Old Town Square in Prague June 2. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bomb work of enemies: Havel

'Polls free and fair'

PRAGUE, June 3. (Reuters): President Vaclav Havel said today a home-made bomb which injured 18 people in central Prague had been planted by the enemies of Czechoslovakia's new democracy.

He told Prague radio the government would take firm action to prevent any similar incidents to yesterday's explosion, which happened six days before Czechoslovakia holds its first free elections in 44 years.

"The fact that this took place just a few days before the elections clearly indicates that perpetrators of this crime were recruited from among those who are against this government and we shall show them that they have no chance," Havel said.

"We should consider this as a sort of test. Somebody is testing the strength of our democracy before the elections. It is very important to show a firm hand and that freedom and democracy do not mean that everybody can do as he pleases such as trying to murder children on the old town square."

Anti-democratic forces must be shown that "the first time will

also be the last time," Havel said. Communist Party leader Vasil Mohorita joined in condemning the bomb blast, the first incident of its kind since communist rule was overthrown last year.

"I wish to express my indignation at the inhumanity of this terrible act," Mohorita said in a statement. "Our party resolutely condemns all expressions of violence."

Havel believes Czechoslovakia's general election this week will be free and fair but warns the road to democracy will be hard and long.

"I think the elections will be truly free. Whoever wanted to found a party could do so and people have a choice, the political spectrum is unlimited," he said.

"Naturally, the fact that we are holding these elections does not mean that we have definitely won. The road to democracy is a long one because it is a matter of building the feeling of real citizenship in people."

"We shall have to pass new laws, we have to carry out important changes in the economic structures. Simply put, it will be a demanding period," Havel said.

West German official claims

Soviets should be in Nato

HAMBURG, West Germany, June 3. (AP): A top-ranking West German Defence Ministry official yesterday was quoted as saying the West should invite the Soviet Union to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Willy Wimmer, a state secretary in the Bonn Defence Ministry was also quoted by the Hamburg-based Welt Am Sonntag saying that the "door to the European common market and world economic summit" should be opened to the Soviets

and other East bloc nations.

The West Europeans "are obligated to offer our East European neighbours membership and association to the European Economic Community," Wimmer was quoted as saying.

"The same goes for the world economic summit" which is currently comprised of the seven top industrialised nations, the newspaper quoted Wimmer as saying. "The Soviets belong at this table."

Meet on Soviet abuses

MOSCOW, June 3. (AP): A group that monitors the Helsinki accords yesterday began two days of hearings on past Soviet human rights abuses in what it called a test of whether the Kremlin would tolerate public discussion of its record.

Officials of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights said they decided to hold their annual meeting in Moscow to gauge the city's suitability for hosting the 1991 Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

"We wanted to see if it is possible to hold a private meeting in the Soviet Union without an official invitation or an official sponsor," said Jeri Laber, the group's director.

So far, she said, there have been a few problems, especially with visas for Soviets living abroad, including former political prisoner Yuri Orlov.

"The problems have been solved, but not without lots of fights and discussions," she said.

Gerald Nagler, a conference organiser, said many delegates, particularly those from Eastern Europe, had to wait until the last minute before receiving Soviet visas.

Battles in northern Ethiopia

NAIROBI, June 3. (Reuters): Two rebel groups said today their forces had killed more than 1,200 government troops in the latest battles in northern Ethiopia.

The clandestine radio station of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) monitored here, said EPLF forces killed more than 1,000 soldiers in recent fighting north-east of the Eritrean capital, Asmara.

In another broadcast, the Tigray People's Liberation Front said its forces killed 210 when they destroyed a government battalion in a Shewa province, 130 km (80 miles) north of Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia said last week its forces were involved in heavy fighting with combined forces of the two rebel groups in the south of Eritrea. The government has not commented so far on the latest rebel claims.

The EPLF said its forces launched an offensive in the Gindira area on Thursday. In addition to more than 1,000 killed, 1,200 government troops were wounded and 253 captured. It added Gindira lies between Asmara and the Indian Ocean port of Massawa.

Human rights group blames Israeli army

Jewish official assails EEC condemnation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 3, (Agencies): An Israeli human rights group said today the army was too hasty in opening fire on Palestinians protesting an Israeli massacre of seven Arab workers. The massacre and the subsequent deaths in clashes with the army produced the highest monthly death toll for the past year of the Palestinian uprising, said the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the occupied territories, known as Betelem in Hebrew. The centre said the rash of deaths came despite army claims that after

29 months soldiers had learned to exercise restraint in countering protests. "The facts prove that the opposite was true" said a report by the centre.

The group, founded by Israeli liberals and intellectuals, said 10 Palestinians were killed and hundreds injured in the three days after the massacre. It noted only four Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded in the first three days of the uprising in December 1987.

"The centre's initial inquiries give the impression that security forces did not show enough prudence to give residents sufficient opportunity to in any way express their pain and anger, acting instead to nip all protests in the bud," the report said.

Israel today described as one-sided an EEC statement criticising violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and calling for human rights to be observed.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's media adviser, Avi Pazner, said the European Economic Community had failed to take into account a Palestinian attack on Israel's coast and threats by Arab states.

"We were very disappointed by (Saturday's) decision for ignoring the two major events which happened last week," Pazner said.

"One was the summit in Baghdad with the harsh, violent, inciting rhetoric of some leaders like (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein again calling for the destruction of Israel and then the latest PLO attack against us," he said. Dany Naveh, a top aide to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, was quoted on Israel Radio as saying:

"This past week there were two sad reminders that the real obstacle to peace is PLO-sponsored terrorism and refusal by Arab states to put an end to a state of war and open peace talks with Israel."

Naveh referred to a pipe bomb explosion that killed an elderly Israeli and a foiled attack along the Israeli coast by commandos from the Palestine Liberation Front, a PLO faction headed by Mohammed Abbas.

The European statement yesterday repeated a call for an international Middle East peace conference to include the PLO and said "Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip" is not sustainable. Also today, Lt Gen. Dan Shomron, Israel's Armed Forces chief of staff, appeared before a closed cabinet meeting to answer criticism over the army's handling of last Wednesday's seaborne attack.

Israel Radio quoted Shomron's report to the cabinet as saying the army failed to locate and stop the boat soon enough and failed to spot a mother ship that released the six attack craft about 120 miles at sea.

Abbas was quoted yesterday assaying the seaborne raid was in revenge for the massacre of the seven Palestinians by a lone Israeli gunman whom authorities said was deranged.

In its report on the aftermath of the massacre, the Israeli Centre for Human Rights said most of the Palestinian casualties during May came from army gunfire on people protesting the massacre.

It added: "The result of this was a large number of fatalities which served to further feed the anger and disturbances."

The army has maintained that it acted with restraint in quelling the riots in which Palestinians tried in some cases to overrun outposts and attack soldiers.

"Our belief is the experience gained during the intifada (uprising) helped to maintain a relatively low level of casualties when you take into account that soldiers were faced with hundreds and sometimes thousands of rioters," said an army officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, a petrol bomb was thrown at a car in northern Israel early today but the driver, the sole occupant, escaped unhurt, police said.

Police said they arrested three Arabs suspected of carrying out the pre-dawn attack near a main junction on the road between Haifa and Tiberias. The car was not damaged.



An Iranian mourner who fainted (centre) is carried away by others on June 2 during ceremonies in Tehran. (Reuters wirephoto)

Memorials to mark Khomeini

Iran in mourning

TEHRAN, June 3, (Reuters): A year ago, Ayatollah Khomeini lay in the dusty plain outside Tehran, a metal transport container dropped over his shallow grave to protect his body from millions of weeping, hysterical mourners.

Vast crowds will return tomorrow to his grave — now covered by a huge gold-capped tomb — to remember the religious leader who toppled the Shah of Iran, defied the superpowers and lifted the banner of militant Islam in the world.

Loud-speakers vied to lead processions through all parts of Tehran today chanting: "Imam, imam, how shall we live now that you have gone?"

Whole families set off on foot on pilgrimage to the grave in Behesht-e Zahra war cemetery about two hours' drive from central Tehran.

This year's weather looks as if it will be only slightly kinder to the crowds than last year's, when temperatures of 40 degrees Centigrade (105 Fahrenheit) felled thousands, and killed scores through heatstroke.

During a week of memorials Iran's media has dedicated itself to blanket coverage extolling Khomeini's life, teaching, and virtues.

A first group of Soviet Muslims crossed into Iran from Azerbaijan yesterday to mark the anniversary of the death of Khomeini.

The Iranian news agency Irna said the border would also be open today and tomorrow after appeals from "thousands" of Soviet Muslims asking to attend ceremonies marking the June 3 anniversary.

Girl killed in Beirut Christian clashes

BEIRUT, June 3, (UPI): An 11-year-old girl was killed and her parents were wounded when a shell hit their home early today in Christian East Beirut, police said.

Police said the girl was the first victim of renewed fighting between troops of Christian military leader Gen Michel Aoun and Lebanese forces militia leader Samir Geagea since the rivals agreed to a Vatican-mediated truce last week.

Sporadic fighting was reported through the night along the demarcation lines in the Christian enclave but calm prevailed in the morning, security sources and witnesses said.

More than 1,000 people have been killed and 3,740 others have been wounded since the battle for the control of the Christian enclave broke out Jan 31 between Aoun and Geagea.

Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente announced last weekend a five-point agreement for peace in East Beirut which he said Geagea and Aoun had approved.

Three members of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia were seriously wounded when a car packed with explosives blew up outside their barracks in south Lebanon, security sources said today.

Gunmen in a speeding car killed two Suni Muslim militiamen manning a checkpoint in the Lebanese port of Sidon today, security sources said.

Musavian reiterates Rushdie decree

TEHRAN, June 3, (AP): A senior Iranian official denied today reports that Tehran had revoked a death sentence against British author Salman Rushdie issued last year by the founder of Islamic Republic, the late Ayatollah Khomeini.

Hussein Musavian, director-general of the Foreign Ministry, said the report was "absolutely false."

"Neither I nor any other Iranian official or even the government has the power to revoke that decree," he told the Associated Press when asked about a report in a British weekly newspaper Sunday which also was picked up by radio stations.

The report interpreted remarks by Musavian at a recent news conference to mean that a year after Khomeini died, Iran was no longer seeking Rushdie's death.

Musavian was elaborating on preconditions for resuming Tehran-London relations, severed after Khomeini called on Muslims in February 1989, to seek Rushdie out and kill him for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses."

Musavian said the Rushdie affair was the main issue blocking a resumption of relations between the two countries.

He said Iran would agree to direct talks with Britain to improve relations if the intention were to discuss Rushdie's book.

Musavian added that a "great step" toward resuming ties could be if Britain changed its blasphemy law, which applies only to insults against Christianity.

He did not repeat the call for Rushdie's death, prompting the speculation that Khomeini's sentence was no longer valid.

Rushdie has been in hiding since Khomeini's call last year.

Nuclear-free Middle East UN team meets Israeli officials

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 3, (AP): A UN delegation seeking a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East began a two-day visit today to Israel, which is reportedly the only country in the region with atomic weapons.

The disarmament delegation met with Eitan Bentzur, head of the Foreign Ministry's North America desk, and with officials from Israel's Atomic Energy Commission, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Meir Goldberg, a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Commission, refused to answer questions on the meetings and referred inquiries to the Foreign Ministry. Neither the ministry nor UN officials would give details of the meetings.

Israeli officials have said they are in favour of nuclear arms control in the region but insist it

must be achieved through direct talks with its neighbours.

Israel has repeatedly refused to respond to foreign reports that it has about 100 nuclear bombs, giving it the world's sixth largest nuclear stockpile. Officials have said Israel would not be the first to use atomic weapons in the Middle East.

The three-man UN delegation was named in 1988 to prepare a report for the Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on ways to advance nuclear disarmament in the Middle East. It has already visited Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iran and Iraq.

The delegation's visit comes one week after Israel's Supreme Court rejected the appeal of former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu on his espionage conviction.

Smuggling on mules

Israel's influence opposed

SHEBAA, Lebanon, June 3, (Reuters): The UN armoured car careered down a steep street in pursuit of Israeli-backed militiamen, whipping past the slow lines of mules loaded with smuggled fuel from Syria.

With rifles protruding from their car windows, the militiamen disappeared down a mountain track and the Norwegian troop carrier turned, revved its engine and clattered back to the United Nations post at the village entrance.

Sandwiched deep in the southeastern corner of Lebanon between the Israeli-held Golan Heights and Syria, Shebaa is famed for growing cherries and smuggling. Steel is smuggled into Syria and diesel out.

The brief drama on the streets reinforced how little anyone can claim to control the village. Its 5,000 residents put their trust only in themselves and the Syrian merchants with whom they have been dealing for decades.

"It's a usual operation for us," said a sweating Norwegian UN officer as knots of villagers who watched the chase with fear returned to loading mules. "We cannot take their guns but we follow them to harass them."

The militiamen were intelligence officers from the Israeli-supported South Lebanon Army (SLA), considered an illegal force by the peacekeepers of the nine nation UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil).

Shebaa, a Sunni Muslim village opposed to Israel's influence in Lebanon, lies just inside an Israeli-declared Border Security Zone held by the SLA. But residents resist SLA attempts to extend its authority.

"No one interferes with us or our mules in the mountains," said Ali Sultan, 24, one of a few hundred villagers who earn more than the basic wage in Lebanon by making trips to the Syrian border and back.

"It's a hard living," said 12-year-old Mohammed Sharief, who rides one of his father's animals. "I don't go to school at all."

The SLA wants to tax the traffic but villagers have refused to pay, arguing that the militia does nothing for them while profits are hard-earned with each mule costing up to \$1,500.

Every day an estimated 300 mules set out on the three-hour climb over the grey, rocky ridge of Mount Hermon, which towers over Shebaa and marks the border.

On the way up, the animals carry 100 KD (220 pounds) each of steel rods, wound into bundles and strapped to their sides. The metal, some of which is produced in Israel, is shipped to Lebanon through the ports of Naqoura and Sidon.

The Shebaa smugglers then buy the steel for \$37 a muleload and sell it to Syrians at the border for \$47. Each consignment is ordered in advance and mule owners accept credit from their buyers.

On the return trip the mules carry small tanks of Syrian diesel and things like cheap plastic mats, medicine, brass, goods, shoes and lighter fluid.

The traffic is illegal but Syrian authorities usually leave the smugglers alone. After 15 years of civil war the Lebanese government in Beirut has far too many problems of its own to bother about Shebaa.

"The only things none of us will carry are drugs or arms," said a 24-year-old mule owner. "We all know that if we did the Syrians and Israelis would put a quick end to this business."

Before the civil war, smugglers worked at night to avoid border officers. But the collapse of Beirut's authority allowed them to work in daytime watched by Israeli soldiers atop the 2,800 metre (9,200 foot) Mount Hermon.

"Half Shebaa's villagers have left during the war as there is not enough money. We survived only on sheep, fruit and the mules," said Mohammed Zouhair, the 90-year-old village headman.

The answer is yes: Sharon

May form govt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 3, (Reuters): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today the United States would bolster Middle East peace efforts if it stopped talking to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

He told the Jerusalem Post in an interview published today that ending a 17-month-old US-PLO dialogue would "finally allow our peace plan to take off."

"It has not been able to do so because the PLO has been associated" with peace efforts, he was quoted as saying.

Shamir indicated that a break in the US-PLO dialogue would improve relations with Washington after their deterioration in recent months and provide "new momentum" to Israel peace moves.

When asked if he expected talks to stop, Shamir said "it would be a logical step for the US."

"Its (Washington's) credibility would be enhanced, as it is well-known that the PLO is continuing its terror. If the US wants to help, the PLO must be kept outside the peace process."

The Israeli premier declined to discuss Libya's alleged role in the attack which Israeli officials said was launched from Benghazi.

"We know Libya's place on the map, and we are following its involvement in terrorism," he said.

TEL AVIV, June 3, (Reuters): Israeli hardliner Ariel Sharon, who led Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said today he would try to form a government if caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir failed to do so.

"I think there is no need at the moment, but if a situation is created where Mr Shamir isn't ready to form a government, when he can form a government, the answer is yes," Sharon, 62, told a news conference when asked if he would try to take charge.

The hawkish former defence minister has long vied with Shamir to lead the hardline Likud Party. He wants to stop the 74-year-old premier from renewing a unity government that fell in March over US peace proposals.

Shamir faces a Thursday deadline for enlisting parliamentary support behind a Likud-led coalition. He summoned Likud cabinet ministers to a strategy meeting late today.

Shamir has solicited support from partners to the right of himself favouring harsher measures to quash the nearly 30-month-old Palestinian uprising, including expelling Arabs.

But facing growing world pressure to advance peace, Shamir has considered rejoining the more dovish Labour Party led by Shimon Peres in a unity government.

Yet he has had trouble finding a formula for renewing the partnership since it collapsed over his refusal to accept US proposals



Sharon

for first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

A senior government official said: "Shamir wants a unity government but can't have it. He can have a narrow government but doesn't want it."

Labour's central committee chairman, Micha Harish, told army radio today his party could be drawn into negotiations if Likud were willing to consider talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

The burly Sharon disputed claims by Shamir's supporters that the prime minister was two seats short of clinching 61-seat right-wing majority in the 120-seat Parliament.

Generators needed Water-shortage

KHARTOUM, June 3, (AP): The military government has told Sudanese citizens it needs to rent their electricity generators to help relieve acute water shortages which have sparked some demonstrations in recent weeks.

Lt Gen. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir's government made the appeal on the state-owned television and radio. Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Col Ali Tayeb Kheir, promised that the government would pay for the use of the generators and would repair any damages that they might sustain.

The four-million Sudanese in Khartoum and its surroundings depend on more than 100 artesian wells for tap water. Artesian wells are drilled deep enough to reach water that is draining from higher surrounding grounds above the well so that the pressure will force the flow of the water upwards.

But neither Sudan nor neighbouring Ethiopia have had much rainfall this summer. So electricity or fuel — which is also in shortage in Sudan — are needed to pump the water up into the pipes.

Professor Mohammad Zahir Khatib was a prominent member of the Jamiat-i-Islami rebel group that is fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government and is based in Peshawar. (Reuters)

UK credit for Iraq: Despite recent strains in the relationship between London and Baghdad, Britain is continuing its policy of offering highly favourable credit terms to Iraq, it was reported in London Sunday.

The Observer newspaper disclosed that one of the UK's leading banks, the Midland, was recently encouraged by the government to lend Iraq 250 million pounds worth of trade credit. (Kuna)

Troops kill rebel Kurd: Turkish troops killed a separatist Kurdish rebel in a clash in the eastern province of Tunceli on Saturday night, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said on Sunday.

It quoted security officials as saying the clash occurred near Ovacik town when a military patrol came across a group of rebels from the outlawed Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). (Reuters)

Tribal chiefs to meet with UN officials on Western Sahara

ALGIERS, June 3, (Reuters): Nineteen Saharan tribal chiefs left Algeria for Geneva today to help verify electoral lists for a proposed United Nations referendum on the future of the disputed western Sahara, a Saharan official said.

Nineteen other former members of the Jamaa, a Parliament set up when Spain ruled the desert territory, were also due to leave for Geneva today, the Moroccan News Agency Map said in Rabat. Ibrahim Hakim, representative in

Algiers of the independence-seeking Polisario guerrillas, told Reuters the tribal chiefs would spend three days meeting with UN officials.

They will attempt to validate the 74,000 names on the 1974 Spanish census lists of the territory.

Both Morocco, which now rules most of the Western Sahara, and the Polisario agree those named in the census should vote in a UN referendum on its future. Validating the names is one step

towards holding the referendum on whether the territory should be independent or absorbed into Morocco.

But the two sides are still far apart on whether Moroccan troops and administrators should stay during the referendum.

Map said King Hassan received the 19 notables who were leaving through Morocco last night but gave no details.

The Polisario put the total Saharan population in 1987 at 207,000, of whom 150,000 were in refugee camps in south-

western Algeria.

Map said King Hassan told the notables they would assist the UN in identifying voters who would take part in "the organisation of a confirmation referendum."

The king said that in Geneva they would meet their brothers from the other side and asked them to convey to them "our paternal salutations and confirm to them what we have always said, that the fatherland is clement and merciful."

KUWAIT ... GULF

Teachers want school year shortened

Repeated extensions

KUWAITI Teachers Society expressed hopes that the Ministry of Education will reconsider its policy to extend the academic year and shortening the summer holidays at all educational stages. They also called upon the ministry to find ways

to avoid the termination of Arab teachers from schools.

Officials at the society stated that the ministry has repeatedly extended previous academic years adding that the end of

April was a good time to start the summer holidays as implemented previously due to weather conditions. They said that the extension of school time was adopted by the ministry after installing air-condition-

ers at most schools.

Regarding the cutting down of summer holidays, the teachers' society stressed that it is the right of all teachers to have their full annual holidays.

Kuwait satisfied by summit outcome

KUWAIT, June 3. (Kuna): The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers today expressed satisfaction over the outcomes of the emergency Arab summit held lately in Baghdad and welcomed the unification of the two parts of Yemen.

During its regular session chaired by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, the council hailed the results of the summit after listening to a report yesterday from His Highness the Amir, a report today by deputy premier and foreign minister and a report by state minister for cabinet affairs.

The summit was held upon a call by the state of Palestine to discuss threats to Arab national security, especially US and Israeli collaboration against interests of the Arab world. The summit also addressed the peril of Soviet Jews emigration to the occupied Arab lands.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed told reporters after the Cabinet's session that the council considered the decisions adopted by the Baghdad summit as a "qualitative addition" toward reorganisation of joint Arab efforts.

On the Yemeni unification step, the Council of Ministers lauded the effort calling it "a conscious step" representing the return to "normalcy" and ending the state of partitioning, according to Al Rashed.

"This positive transformation," he added, "forms an important achievement on both the local and national levels reflecting the possibility of embodying the Arab will."

On other issues, the Cabinet was briefed by the minister Al Rashed on the talks held in Kuwait with the Minister administrative development in Egypt who visited Kuwait last week.

The Cabinet was also briefed by Sheikh Saad on the visit to Kuwait last week by Malian President Moussa Traore who met with senior Kuwaiti officials topped by the Amir.

Several decisions were taken by the council on a number of other issues related to local questions, Al Rashed concluded.

Qatari ministers in Cairo

DOHA, June 3. (Kuna): Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani left here today for Cairo on a three-day visit to Egypt.

The Qatari News Agency (QNA) said that Sheikh Hamad is heading a high-level delegation, which includes Foreign Minister Al Khatir and Ministers of Information, Sheikh Hamad Bin Suhaim Al Thani and of Communications and Transportation Abdulla Bin Saleh Al Mané.

On the other hand, Egyptian Premier Atef Sedki welcomed the Qatari ranking official and said that the visit will be a good opportunity to trade views on issues of mutual concern.

Speaking in a statement to QNA, Sedki added that several co-operation agreements will also be concluded between the two countries in the various fields.

For his part, the Qatari foreign minister affirmed that Sheikh Hamad's visit to Egypt, followed by a similar one to Syria, falls in line with maintaining dialogue among Arab countries.

Khatir noted that the crown prince and defence minister's talks in Cairo and Damascus will relate to the latest Arab and international developments and ways of strengthening bilateral relations.



Mini graduation

The Nile Kindergarten in Hawally education area was recently the scene of a graduation function for the year 1989-90, which was patronised by the secretary at the Education Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Khodari. Picture (above) shows children in their graduation gear and (below) the officials and teachers who attended the function.



Khorafi heads delegation to S. Arabia

GCC finance and economy session

KUWAIT, May 3. (Kuna): Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi left here today for Saudi Arabia, heading a delegation to attend the 25th session of the financial and economic co-operation committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council which is due to open in Taif this evening.

Khorafi will also attend the joint meeting for the committee and the GCC ministerial council which groups foreign ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.

In a statement to Kuna and Radio Kuwait, Khorafi said the financial and economic co-operation committee will review a memorandum by the GCC secretariat on allowing GCC citizens to get loans from official credit institutions in the member states.

The minister added that the committee will also review a memo from the secretariat on allowing GCC citizens to practice educational, health, information, cultural and sports activities in the member states as well as economic and professional activities.

The meeting will also discuss a memo presented by the secretariat on

the 16th meeting for the negotiation team which was held at the GCC headquarters last May 13-14, he said.

The unification of customs tariffs in the member states will also be tackled in a memo to be presented by the secretariat, he added.

As for the joint meeting, Khorafi said it will take place today evening on the negotiation team for the talks between the GCC and the European Economic Community and on ways of co-ordination among the GCC states in those important talks.

Khorafi expressed hope that the GCC would be able through the joint meeting to unify positions at the negotiations with the EEC. He also hoped that the finance ministers' meeting would be able to reach positive results on issues which have been discussed and were then delayed for more study.

The minister is accompanied by the assistant undersecretary for economic affairs Mustafa Al Shimab, deputy director-general of the General Administration for Customs Abdul Latif Al Saeed, head of GCC affairs at the Finance Ministry Hamad Al Dabous and the director of the minister's office, Khaled Rowayeh.

Haj caravans

Unified charges praised

A NUMBER of haj caravan organisers have told a local daily of the ministry's decision to unify subscription fees with the objective of achieving equality among caravans.

Barrak Mohammad Al Barrak a caravan owner said that the ministry's decision is an excellent step with benefits to hajjis in the first place.

He said that the unified fees under the decision are KD300 for buses, KD280 for micro-buses KD260 for mini buses and KD350 for suburbans.

He refuted rumours about the commercialisation of the haj caravans stressing that the cost per hajji is about KD250 and for

a companion is about KD220. The rental of accommodations in Saudi Arabia is costly as the rental per building is about 170 Saudi riyals and the services and housing cost about KD50.

Ojail Al Enizi said that the ministry's decision is sound and appropriate, provided that the haj organisers honour it. He said that some are expected not to be able to comply due to the high accommodations cost and related buildings rentals in Saudi Arabia.

Another organiser said that the ministry's decision is good as some caravans overcharge for subscription, and now that the fees have been unified the subscribers will have complete freedom to choose which caravan they would like to join.

Ahmad Ali Al Bani said that the decision is in the best interest of the hajji, which has protected them against price manipulation, adding that the catering services on the caravans include cooked meals not canned foods.

Mohammad Ahmad Al Ajmi said that the decision is excellent and protective of the hajjis interests, adding that the alleged commercialisation of the haj caravans is but an unfounded rumour, adding that the caravans were established to serve the hajjis under well-defined regulations.

On the other hand, Ayar said that the Health Affairs Department presented a report on the cleanliness condition in all Kuwait areas stating that all Kuwait main streets and roads in addition to grounds are quite clean of sand piles and wastes excluding a few areas where cleaning works are under progress.

He stated that Kuwait Municipality calls upon all residents to preserve the cleanliness of the country.

Exercise keeps you young, says neurologist

DOCTOR Waleed Shuaib is the first Kuwaiti doctor in the field of neurology. Interviewed by a local daily, he said that his doctorate research involved searching for alterations of the nervous system due to age. He stated that his research had put more emphasis on whether exercises have an effect on decreasing the intensity of these alterations in the nervous system. He added that through conducting research works, he had arrived at highly important new scientific conclusions. Two specialised scientific magazines in the USA, where Shuaib received his doctorate have published his doctorate research.

Shuaib said that the nervous system of human faces many alterations due to age like loss of memory. He added that diseases occurring in the nervous system has no treatment so far despite the advancement achieved in other fields.

He added that he is now studying the possibility of establishing a physiological research centre for nerves and muscles in the Islamic world. He said that the centre will specialise in the treatment of muscle paralysis caused by accidents to the spine. Shuaib added that his research works have concluded that exercises will prevent physiological alterations in muscles and nerves.

Contract signed

KUWAIT, June 3. (Kuna): Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti yesterday signed a contract to construct and maintain the National Centre for Microfilm and Computers, and an agreement to supervise the implementation of the Fifth Ring Road at a total cost of KD14.305 million.

The National Centre for Computers and Microfilm costs KD12.7 million while duration of the construction is 900 days.

Cost of the supervision agreement on the implementation of the western section of the Fifth Ring Road project is valued at KD1.605 million.

Duration of the agreement extends to 1,300 days.

He expected that during the coming three years hotels overlooking sea will be set up.

He however pointed out that Bahrain currently lacks a Bahraini-Arabic hotel.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Rashed said that the Ministry of Information represented by tourism department decided to preserve and develop archaeological activities and has decided to establish an information centre at Arrad Castle in addition to other health facilities and restaurants.

He disclosed that this department received several offers from companies for the setting up of the necessary recreational facilities. The official also expected that the Bahrain Fair Centre will play a pilot role in developing the exhibitions and conferences. He clarified that such a centre will include halls for the setting up of artistic shows in addition to cultural and sporting activities.

Director of Tourism and Archaeology Department at the Ministry of Information Dr Kazem Rajab said that the Bahrain Centre for Supply and Hotel Affairs was aiming at preparing national cadres to work in the hotel field. Headed this centre had been designed to accommodate trainees from the GCC countries. He added that the setting of an education institution for hotel affairs graduates is currently under study.

Speaking of the hotel industry in the country, the official disclosed that one grand hotel in the country had been privatised recently, clarifying that the government invested about BD 3.5 million in this hotel. He added that the government has shown keenness to let the private sector play a significant role in developing tourism.

Shafi Saani remembered

AN extraordinary general meeting of the Pak Bazz-E-Sukhan was held under the chairmanship of Tahir Kaifi at his residence on May 28 to pay homage to the departed soul of Shafi Saani who died of heart failure in the Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital.

Amber Fatehpuri spoke on the life and works of Shafi Saani whose devotion to music and literature had been exemplary.

Tahir Kaifi paid glowing tribute to Saani who was the founder of "Funkar" the renowned musical society of Kuwait. Kaifi also recognised the services of the deceased as senior vice president and general secretary of the Kuwait Bazz-E-Adab under which banner the deceased had organised many memorable mushairas and musical concerts. He was also a good classical Ghazal singer.

The Bazz passed a resolution expressing heart felt sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul. Maulana Zaki led the prayers. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Privatisation of MEW remote, says Rqobah

GCC power, water may be unified

THE minister of electricity and water Dr Hmoud Al Rqobah has said that that government has spent KD 2.324 billion over the past 14 years to cover the cost of its power and water desalination projects.

He said that the power production cost has been double the cost of water desalination which has so far totalled KD1.740 billion, whereas the cost of water desalination has reached KD 584.818 million.

He told a local daily that the government is currently providing subsidised public electrical and water supplies services to subscribers and chances that the ministry will transfer its assets to the private sector are remote. The total value of MEW assets is over several billions of Kuwaiti dinars. Rqobah said. He denied any existing intention in the GCC to unify power production and water desalination plants in the Gulf for the time being.

He said that the total amount of spending on power production in Kuwait during 1988/89 was KD 127.123 million and the amount of spending on water desalination KD 51.788 million. He said that the total amount

of funds allocated under the next five-year plan to fund the new electrical power production projects currently under execution is about KD 409,917,000, and that the total amount of subsidy paid by the ministry for subscriber services in 1988/89 was KD 249.8 million.

He said that there is no intention for the time being to unify the power production and water desalination sources in the Gulf, since this process presupposes the determination of the energy resources and type of common energy source available in each country.

Rqobah added that this is important because the generators that will be used for this project will be fed with different types of energy as commonly available in each of these countries, and the same applies to the water desalination plants.

He pointed out that studies and interviews are being made to discuss and elaborate on this matter and to lay down the specifications required for acquisition of reliable type of generators and water desalination equipment and recommendations are being adopted in this

connection, pending further study.

He said that the GCC power interlink will yield different benefits for all countries involved which include the reduction in the amount of circulatory stands by power, which will reduce the cost of building more power generation units, ensures continued circulation of power supply, reduce power failures, support economical power consumption for cooling systems and in general rationalise power usage, maintenance and operation cost.

He pointed out that upon the completion of the Iraqi fresh water supply to Kuwait project, the total amount of government spending on water desalination project will definitely reduce. He added that the power and water production cost is extremely high, which is why the private sector will not be able to take over or buy the assets of this sector.

He added that the financial ability of the private sector will not enable it to take this step, and the current ministry subsidy of public services reaches KD 250 million, which is another reason why the private sector will not be able to bear this burden.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier receives

KUWAIT, June 3. (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received in audience Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Sheikh Nasser Mohammedi Al Ahmed who asked permission to leave to Geneva to attend the International Labour Conference.

HH also received Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadi, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed, Finance Minister Jassim Mohammed Al Khorafi, and HH the Amir's Advisor Abdul Rahman Salem Al Attiqi.

Sheikh Saad also chaired a meeting of the Higher Petroleum Council which was attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed, Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Atbbi, Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Minister of Trade and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid and other council members.

Weather

NORMAL summer weather with light to moderate north westerly wind. State of sea: light to moderate. High water: 3.30 am, 10.00 pm. Low water: 2.30 am, 3.52 pm. Sunrise: 4.48 am. Sunset: 6.44 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 45°C 113°F. Fuhajia: 39°C 95°F. Fuhajia: 40°C 104°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 44°C 111°F. Fuhajia: 38°C 100°F. Fuhajia: 40°C 104°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 35°C 95°F. Fuhajia: 32°C 90°F. Fuhajia: 28°C 79°F.



DGCA request

After delivering your bags to your carrier, make sure that the tags have been properly attached. In addition, make sure that the number of tags you have been given equal the number of your bags. Keep these tags until you receive all your bags at the arrival airport.

Unauthorised street signs removed

DIRECTOR of the Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality Naser Al Ayar has stated that the municipality has removed 716 unauthorised street signs and advertisements during the period from March 29 to May 9, 1990.

Ayar added that the municipality calls upon all citizens to comply with the advertisement system when posting their signs.

On the other hand, Ayar said that the Health Affairs Department presented a report on the cleanliness condition in all Kuwait areas stating that all Kuwait main streets and roads in addition to grounds are quite clean of sand piles and wastes excluding a few areas where cleaning works are under progress.

He stated that Kuwait Municipality calls upon all residents to preserve the cleanliness of the country.

Saudi, Britain to confiscate drug money

NICOSIA, June 3, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia and Britain have signed an agreement to fight drug trafficking and to confiscate drug money, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

The agency received in Nicosia said the agreement, the first between Britain and a Middle Eastern country, was signed in Jeddah on Saturday by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz and

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. The agency quoted Hurd, who arrived in Saudi Arabia from Jordan on Friday, as saying he hoped the pact would achieve its goal in fighting the drug trade.

Prince Nayef said he hoped the agreement would lead to others with Britain to fight drug trafficking, it added. Saudi Arabia introduced capital punishment for drug traffickers in 1987.

Legal Clinic

Should you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, write to: Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait, or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taber, replies to readers' queries.

PLEASE advise if there is an existing law or regulation which stipulates the number of hours worked regarding the entitlement of an employee to a break or lunch period. Specially, I am referring to the profession of nursing in which dedicated women and men care for others. Nurses are accountable and responsible for several patients. However, quality patient care becomes compromised when the caregiver is unable to take a break or lunch period. Health care in Kuwait is striving for prevention. These dedicated individuals are not allowed nor provided with the necessary facilities to "prevent burn out" or reduce stress through rest periods. Please advise the dedicated and hard working nurses of Kuwait.

J.L.A.

THE Kuwaiti Labour Law, articles 33/34/35/36 govern working hours.

It's difficult for me to comment, or give appropriate advice, as you have not mentioned the sector in which the nurses work.

If they are in the private sector, they will be covered by the private sector law. Other rules apply for nurses in the public sector.

The private sector labour law, in brief, stipulates that working hours should not be more than eight, and it is forbidden to make a labourer work for more than five continuous hours. This means that there must be a break during the eight-hour work day, and the break hour is not taken as part of the working hours.

A QUERY regarding what composes a salary under Kuwaiti Labour Law. This query is on behalf of a large group of personnel who will be leaving Kuwait in June.

Annual contract: usual salary stated with airfares in and out as normal.

Extras: (1) KD500 settling in allowance paid every contract signed annually.

(2) Mid-term air flight — equivalent Kuwait-UK-Kuwait normal economy fare, paid in cash.

Query: In calculation of final gratuity will the two above extras be included in the annual salary?

Are there any other items for inclusion? Regards etc.

G.F.

IF KD500 has been paid at every contract — it would be considered as customary payment, and therefore a part of the

salary. But if the payment has been considered (by the employer) as a gift, allowance or bonus, then, according to article 28, any commission or bonus or gift would be considered as such and not a part of the salary. Secondly, if the air ticket has been given continuously — at the end of the contract, annually or mid-term — then it would be taken as a part of the salary. If the company pays the rent, it will also be considered as a part of the salary.

I CAME to Kuwait in October 1988 on a contracting company's visa. After coming to Kuwait I worked for a few months in two different places, but after the promulgation of the labour resolution of March 1989, I could not find any job because my employers needed workers with transferable residence.

My sponsors, the contracting company, is also not in a position to employ me. I am thinking of cancelling my iqama and going back to my country. Therefore, I want to know whether I have to pay for my fare or does the sponsor has to bear the cost of repatriation according to the new labour law.

A.A.M.

IF you have been working for your sponsor, you can ask the company to bear the cost of repatriation. If you have not been employed by your sponsor, you don't really have the right to ask for the return air fare.

It is not a matter of law but a question of conscience; if you have not really worked for the sponsor, don't you think it is not proper for you to demand the air fare?

Anyway, the legal position, according to the social affairs resolution of March 1989, makes the sponsor responsible for repatriating an employee at the end of a contract or final cancellation of a visa.

THERE are many foreign citizens who secure good positions by producing false documents and get good jobs in companies. They get the job approval from the client by submitting forged documents. In some way, such people change their professions at their embassies to suit their job requirements, and have the visa stamped accordingly. Such people are not only cheating the social affairs ministry but also the present rules and pose a threat to the deserving people with authentic qualifications and

experience. This is unjust and shameful.

If I could point out such cases, with evidence, what action could be taken against such elements? I hope such things come out in public so that others are discouraged from getting jobs in an illegal manner.

I hope you can tell us of a proper way to put an end to this matter.

Omar Salah

THIS is a big problem. It's your duty to approach the prosecution department at the Ministry of Justice to inform them about the cases so that such culprits can be found out and action taken against them.

It is your duty to fight any crime committed anywhere, and you must inform official investigators who can follow-up the matter and bring the culprits to justice. The syndrome of deception, cheating, forgery etc. are diseases in society — and a conscientious person, it is your duty to cure the country of the disease.

You must also inform the immigration department and the social affairs ministry about such cases so that appropriate action can be taken.

I HAVE been working in a firm since June 1980 and will be completing 10 years shortly. Can I legally get a transfer if my sponsor refuses to release me. I came to Kuwait on his visa. Am I entitled to all the benefits if I decide to leave the country. If I can get a legal transfer, what are the steps to be taken?

An employee

YOU have the legal right to get a transfer. If the employer refuses to release you, you can file a case against employer through the social affairs ministry by giving them the name of the new sponsor. At the time of filing a case, you must also give supportive documents proving new sponsorship while seeking a release.

According to the social affairs resolution, March 1989, you have the right to ask for a transfer of residence as you have completed over three years employment with one sponsor and 10 years continuous stay in Kuwait.

You are also entitled to benefits as you have worked for more than five years. If you resign, you will be entitled to get only half of the benefits, i.e. seven days salary for the first five years and half a month's pay for the subsequent years of service.

Hope for repeated success of Hatid-Saya

THE success of Hatid-Saya '89 could be attributed largely to two major factors: the energy and inspiration of the Hatid-Saya '89 Committee and the generous support of all our sponsors, donors, and friends.

The funds generated by the Hatid-Saya '89 show in Kuwait last November 12 enabled the committee to:

1. Purchase one-way plane tickets to the Philippines for six (6) destitute contract workers;
2. Pay for the "Karama" (penalty for overstaying) of at least two (2) pathetic overstaying "kabayans" so that they will be able to return home without being unduly penalised by detention;
3. Purchase new furniture and equipment for use at the embassy; and
4. Pay for other incidental expenses involved in putting up the show.

As a gesture of goodwill, and with the co-operation of one of its major sponsors, the Supplying Store Co. W.L.L., the Hatid-Saya '89 Committee has now decided to disseminate one hundred (100) videotape copies of the show free to the sponsors of the show, as well as other members of the community, in the hope that this first step will have a "snowballing" effect. Hopefully, these 100 will be copied and re-copied again and again by members of the Filipino community and other interested parties, without anyone being tempted to try to make copies for his/her own personal gain.

For the information of all concerned, thirty-five (35) copies of the show will be distributed among all the members of the embassy, out of which five will be given to the different labour camps with the most number of Filipino contract workers. Labour Attache Bert Marin will determine which camps will be given a free copy of the tape, for the enjoyment of the camp's Filipino contract workers.

The committee is also giving away thirty (30) copies to each and every one of the show's sponsors, donors, supporters, and friends.



Seminar panel (L to R) Dr Ibrahim Al Sayyad; Dr Farouk Al Saeed; Dr Hussain Al Momen; Varughese Gee, First Secretary Indian Embassy; Augustine Alinilikkal, Kuwait Kerala Cultural Congress president; Jose Vakar, Raju Varughese Venmoney, congress general secretary.

Protect minors from cigarettes: Momen

42pc of Kuwait population smoke

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

SELLING cigarettes to minors and smoking in public places should be prohibited in order to protect the community from the hazards of smoking, said Dr Hussain Al Momen, secretary-general of the Kuwait Society for Cancer Prevention.

Speaking at an anti-smoking seminar organised recently by the Kuwait Kerala Cultural Congress, Momen stated that 42 per cent of Kuwait's population are smokers. "In the last ten years, lung cancer in Kuwait has increased by 418 per cent among women and 118 per cent among men."

Momen told the audience of about 80 that just by quitting smoking mankind can rid itself of half of the diseases it is afflicted with today. "It's easy to stop smoking if you have the will especially when you know how it affects your health and the health of your family and colleagues."

The Smoking Control Clinic has received 8,000 smokers since it opened ten years ago, 60 per cent of them quit smoking."

Dr Ibrahim Al Sayyad, dermatologist, called on the Indian audience not to "pollute the wisdom of India by a plant imported from the West." "Tobacco isn't originally an Eastern plant. We are victims of Western colonisation that introduced it to us."

"When we inhale cigarette smoke, we inhale more than 2,000 substances most of which we don't know the effects of yet. When this smoke goes down the air passage it paralyzes the protective system that carries dirt and other foreign substances out of the lung and back to the nose and mouth," explained Sayyad adding that the most hazardous known components of smoke are nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide.

"If you try to drink from a bottle full of nicotine, the substance will reach your brain through your tongue and paralyse it instantly. You won't even have time to let go of the bottle," Sayyad said adding that although nicotine is not lethal in small doses, it causes heart and blood vessel diseases that could eventually lead to death. "Tar, a waste product of burning, contains 9 carcinogen substances, while carbon monoxide diminishes oxygen supply to the brain."

Answering a question on why some chain smokers live a long healthy life, Sayyad said that old timers who lived in villages did not have to cope with pollution and the added stresses we have to cope with today. "Also, some people are more genetically prone to cancer than others. So let's not double the dangers of environmental pollution for ourselves by smoking."

Dr Farouk Al Saeed, head of acupuncture clinic, said that tobacco addiction could be treated with acupuncture when everything else fails. "Although success rate is not high, this method could give permanent results, is painless and safe."

He explained that small magnetic needles implanted in the orifice of the ear and changed every 5 to 7 days sedate headaches and tension experienced by those who try to quit smoking and eventually leads to a change in their perception of the smell and taste of tobacco until they hate it.

"At the Smoking Control Clinic, we work with three different groups of smokers: those who smoke as a habit, those addicted to tobacco and those who tried to stop smoking and failed. The key to treating smokers from the first group is finding the reason that makes smoking a habit and breaking it. Smokers who fit in the second group are treated with medicines containing nicotine, while those who fit in the third group are treated with acupuncture," explained Saeed.

"A new method to wash nicotine out of your blood is to live on citrus juices for 2 or 3 days," added Sayyad.

Six men from the audience were so moved by the seminar that they pledged to stop smoking there and then.

GCC trade meeting

KUWAIT, June 3, (Kuna): Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdulrazzak Al Khaled will go to Riyadh Tuesday to attend the 15th session of the GCC Trade Co-operation Committee.

The meeting is to take place on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Moroccan envoy received

KUWAIT, June 3, (Kuna): Director of the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's office Abdullah Saud Al Abdul Razaq today received the Moroccan ambassador to Kuwait Abdul Wahed Ben Masoud.

The ambassador, during the meeting, presented a gift from Moroccan monarch King Hassan II, that was carried by Moroccan Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Al Hassan in his recent visit to Kuwait, to Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

He also conveyed a message to Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed from Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation Abdel Latif Filali, in which he renewed his invitation to Sheikh Sabah to visit Morocco.

Strained relations

RIYADH, June 3, (Kuna): Saudi Arabia has denied a press report which suggested that the kingdom's cultural ties with Algeria were in jeopardy.

The report, carried by French weekly magazine Le Point, is completely "truthless," the national Saudi News Agency last night quoted an unnamed official source as saying.

The source stressed that cultural and other ties between the kingdom and Algeria were growing steadily contrary to any such allegations which he said were designed to shake relations between the two Arab countries.

The source, to emphasise that cultural ties between Riyadh and Algeria have been developing in a healthy atmosphere, cited the exchange of art exhibitions between the two countries in the past three years.

Summer clubs

THE Islamic Studies Department at the Ministry of Awqaf invited the five governorates to open summer clubs for youths.

Director of the Islamic Studies Department, Abdullah Mohammed Al Najem stated that in the case of approval, programmes of summer clubs will include Quran recitation, computer education, and organising scientific and historical visits. He added that such experiments would have a good impact on the country.

Najem pointed out that the department will open 150 Quran recitation centres at some of the mosques during summer and said he expected a large response at these centres exceeding 4,000 male and female students.

He indicated that Quran recitations at mosques aim at enhancing students knowledge about Quran in addition to attracting youths towards mosques. Summer Quran recitation lessons will last for two months beginning with the summer holidays.

Illegal aliens

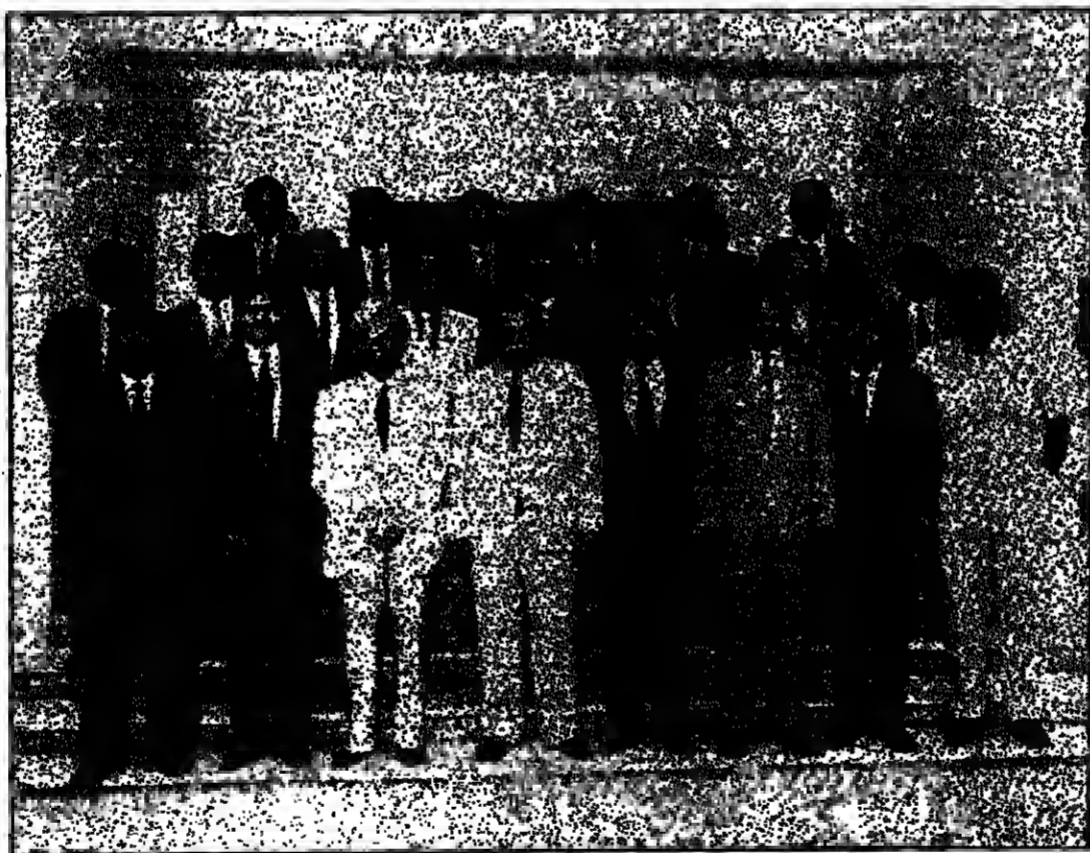
SECURITYMEN in Jahra have arrested two people for illegally entering the country crossing the Iraqi-Kuwait borders.

Securitymen in the Jahra governorate patrols command had during a routine check-out stopped a big lorry bearing Kuwaiti number plates driven by a Tunisian citizen whose two Jordanian passengers failed to produce official documents that they entered the country on foot.

Later they told interrogators that they entered the country on foot, and started to thumb for a lift, and the passing lorry driving picked them up with good intentions.

Meanwhile, another patrol at Jahra picked up four Afghans who entered the country a long time ago and worked in the auto scrap yard area.

The men were caught during a sudden inspection raid of the area by police patrols, and referred to competent security authorities for questioning.



NRI Investors Forum

The executive committee of the Non Resident Indians Investors Forum met with the Indian Ambassador A.K. Budhiraja (centre front row) in connection with the Third Gulf NRI conference to be held at the Taj Palace Hotel in Delhi from July 4-6.

GTD denies two car registration ban

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

AN official at the General Traffic Department denied rumours that a stateless expatriate is not allowed to register more than one vehicle and described it as false.

The assistant-director of the Capital Governorate Traffic Administration Lt. Colonel Ismael Al Khalidi said that no changes regarding the registration and ownership of automobiles have taken place. Locals or residents can own more than one car.

Khalidi added that 52,734 new vehicles were registered during 1989 increasing the total number of vehicles in Kuwait to 632,565. 755,292 driving licences are currently valid according to statistics of April 1990.

The official said that the required documents for registration of new vehicles are the following: A customs certificate, third party insurance certificate,

Civil ID, signature authentication certificate, good conduct and clean state certificate and company's commercial licence (if owned by a company). He added that KD4,500 is paid as registration fees and any new vehicle bought for commercial purpose has to pass the technical test.

Khalidi said that documents required to transfer the ownership of the vehicles are the same as mentioned above with consideration of exchanging the insurance certificate to the new owner in addition to KD 2 as transfer fees.

The documents required to scrap the car are the following: The blue registration book and car plate, Civil ID, certificate from any automobile if the car was scrapped abroad and other certificates such as authentication paper, commercial licence (if owned by a company) and the clear state certificate.

The official called on people



Lt. Colonel Khalidi

who want to scrap their cars to quicken the process of submitting the necessary papers in order to avoid breaking the traffic laws.

Replying to a question on scrapping the car of a dead person, Khalidi said that a certificate from the Ministry of Justice with signature of heirs or their guardians (if they are under age) has to be submitted with other required documents at the concerned traffic department.

He concluded that nominal fees are collected for all transactions at the traffic department.

Keep food trade competitive, say merchants

THE chairman of the Kuwait Food Dealers and Producers Union Abdullah Al Baijan has said that the food market is currently under pressure of unsound operation and practices void of conventional commercial norms, due to the new policies adopted by some consumer co-operative societies and related unions.

He told a local daily that the union pricing committee considers the purchase bills and attempt to contact the dealers' suppliers in a bid to get orders for better prices under the pretext of having the upper hand in the Kuwaiti markets.

He said that the function of the Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is confined to ensuring that the suppliers and producers conform to standard specifications and quality level, and has no connection whatsoever with pricing of commodities.

He said that the freedom of competition between the food supplier and producer companies operating in the local market is an important requirement, as competition is one of the free market pillars through which prices can stabilise.

He told a local daily that the union has received a number of complaints from local dealers about the intervention of the Consumer Co-operative Union in the private affairs of the dealers, although the local market operates under the principles of free commercial trading system, adding that the union has been violating its line of authority and even trying to rival with the dealer through stripping off his agency with the supplier.

He said that it is high time the union was stopped from illegal practice against the interests of the dealers, and the relevant authorities at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry should tighten control and supervision over its role.

He said the role of the Kuwait Food Dealers and Producers Union is to protect the interests of its members and represent them before all different official and non-official agencies, while working to provide technical and legal council to them on all problems facing them and affecting their activities.

He said that the Union also co-operates with the Kuwait Municipality, the co-ops, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to provide support for all means and efforts aimed at reactivating the economic situation in the country and overcoming existing obstacles, besides providing the needed protection to local industries.

He insisted on the need to let foods producers and dealers operate in an atmosphere of utter freedom, pointing out that this requirement was essential to bring prices under control and help them stabilise.

He urged the local co-ops to increase the flexibility of their treatment with the commercial sector to avoid being victimised by unfavourable practices, stressing the need for further control by the relevant Social Affairs and Labour Ministry officials in this sphere.

He stressed the need for strict committee to the recommendation adopted by the committee entrusted with following up the activation of economic situation in the country regarding the need to step up the

Social Affairs and Labour Ministry control and supervisory role over the relation between the co-ops and their suppliers.

Meanwhile board member of Andalus Co-operative Society, Nehad Majed Al Reza called upon the Co-operative Societies Union to control the increase in the prices of some consumer products. He added that giving co-operative societies the opportunity to compete among each other achieves better conditions for consumers.

He stated that the constant increase in consumers products is due to international inflation and stressed that the Co-operative Societies Union should have more control over the increase in prices. The prices committee at the union should be assigned to make more contacts with the exporter of a product which increased in price.

He also called upon the union to take a more effective role in the co-ordination and guidance of the various co-operative societies administrations. He suggested that the union publish a regular price list of new commodities entering Kuwait markets and called for holding an annual and comprehensive meeting with co-operative societies board of directors in order to stand on their views and suggestions.

He suggested the establishment of an institute directed towards co-operative studies and proposed that the institute should be managed by the union. He added that the institute will evidently play an important role in the development of the different financial, administrative and commercial fields at the various societies.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

HE WHO will not economise will have to agonise —

Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 BC-479 BC).

Survival of Gorby
Coalition with
radicals better

MOSCOW, (Reuters): President Mikhail Gorbachev on his return from America may have promptly to consider turning the clock of Soviet history back to 1917 by forming a coalition with radicals to tackle mounting trouble at home.

After the pomp of his summit with US President George Bush, where he secured symbolic new agreements on arms cuts and trade, Gorbachev's return on Monday night will be to a country where political and economic chaos has deepened in his absence.

The centre-ground occupied by Gorbachev is vanishing fast. Soviet society is growing radical and impatient and opposition in the largest Soviet republics threatens to torpedo his reform plans and hound his Prime Minister Ryzhkov from office.

Replace

A widely-tipped candidate to replace Ryzhkov is Stanislav Shatalin, a member of Gorbachev's Presidential Council who, though a Communist Party member, has made no secret that he regards himself as a Western-style social democrat.

Intriguingly, the economist was included in Gorbachev's delegation for the summit with Bush.

If Shatalin or any other figure headed a government including radicals, it would break a communist grip on the country's administration, fiercely maintained since Vladimir Lenin's Bolsheviks seized power nearly 73 years ago.

The Soviet leader can scarcely afford to pursue for much longer his cherished policy of "consolidation" or communist-led rule from the centre, Soviet and foreign analysts said.

"There is no more centre in today's political arena," said economist and radical parliamentary deputy Oleg Poptsov. Opinion polls taken over the past week back that view.

"As the central ground shrinks, Gorbachev needs a coalition with the radicals, or at least to co-opt elements on the left," British Soviet affairs expert Alex Pravda told Soviet and foreign businessmen and economists in Moscow on Friday.

A coalition has already been offered by the wildly-popular standard-bearers of the Soviet left, whose political democratic views range from social democratic to classical right-wing, as a way out of current impasse.

Won

Radical Boris Yeltsin could not have won election last week as president of the Russian Federation, largest Soviet republic, "if he had not been so firm in urging coalition," his strong backer, Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov, told the businessmen's conference.

Popov proposed a left-centre coalition that would bring in good elements from the conservative camp, a reference to his own experiment in running the Soviet capital helped by competent administrators from the old city apparatus.

The crunch for Gorbachev could come very soon — the Soviet Parliament seems to be moving towards rejecting Ryzhkov's reform programme — which includes huge price rises — early this week.

The plan, described by many Western specialists as a half-hearted bid to shift slowly to a market economy while retaining a large measure of central control, has been condemned by both the left and right wings of Soviet politics.

The conservative-dominated parliaments of the Ukraine and Byelorussia — where many old-style communists argue that the market means capitalist exploitation — have already rejected the package as undermining already-low living standards.

The radicals, including the high-flying Yeltsin, say the project is incoherent and contradictory and will make ordinary people pay for a covert effort to maintain old-fashioned state monopolies in industry and agriculture.

If the plan is rejected and Ryzhkov and his government resign, as the prime minister has said he would, Gorbachev may have little choice but to look to the left with its clearly overwhelming current lead in popular support to help out.

There remain strong doubts, boosted by Gorbachev's hardly gracious comments in Canada last week on Yeltsin's election to the Russian Federation leadership, whether Gorbachev is yet ready to consign communism to a back seat.

Over recent weeks, he has renewed appeals for the defence of the "ideals and principles" of the revolution and the Soviet form of socialism, despite his support for a market economy.

A platform he has championed for a key congress of the party in July, whose language was drafted in a way that tries to avoid alienating communist conservatives still faithful to old dogmas, has deepened scepticism on the left-wing.

"We would not stand to lose anything if we were to forego the myth about a socialist choice and communism," Alexander Tsipko, a political scientist and former adviser in the party's central committee, said in the radical weekly Moscow News.

"We are again hearing the language of ideological incantations and pledges of loyalty to the socialist choice" from architects of Gorbachev's perestroika, Tsipko said.

Alex Pravda offered a similar warning. "Over the past three or four years, Gorbachev has moved in a leftist direction and he has shown that he is a pragmatist," he told last week's conference.

"But for him to accept a coalition would mean he would have to break through the barriers that he himself has set up — the stipulation that communists must play a leading role and that the government must have socialist aims."

"We have yet to see if he can make that leap."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1647 — England's King Charles I is seized as hostage by the army.

1800 — Genoa capitulates to French forces.

1805 — United States concludes peace treaty with Tripoli.

1813 — Prussia and France sign armistice of Poischwitz.

1815 — Denmark cedes Pomerania and Rügen to Prussia in return for part of Duchy of Lauenburg.

1859 — Austrians are defeated at Magenta by French, who free Milan in Italy.

1942 — Army troops march into Buenos Aires and overthrow government of Argentine president Ramon Castillo.

1943 — Battle of Midway begins in World War II and US ships inflict first decisive defeats on Japanese.

1944 — Allied forces enter Rome, Italy in World War II.

1956 — Egypt announces it will not extend Suez Canal Company's concession after expiration in 1959.

1970 — Kingdom of Tonga in Pacific becomes member of the British Commonwealth.

1974 — Death toll from smallpox is listed as at least 10,000 in 1974 in Indian state of Bihar in one of worst epidemics in recent years.

1987 — China's foreign minister Huang Hua, visiting Zaire, expresses sharp criticism of Soviet and Cuban involvement in Africa.

1984 — Vietnam accuses China of massing troops and weapons along their common border.

1987 — Indian Air Force transports backed by fighter jet planes parachute relief supplies onto Sri Lanka's Jaffna peninsula.

1988 — Iraqi warplanes attack ship in tanker holding area off Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in northern Gulf.

1989 — Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, dies at age 86.

Arms accord has loopholes

US- Soviets left with more than enough

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The US-Soviet strategic arms pact, whose outlines were finalised on Friday, has been hailed by its supporters as a turning-point, but critics call it a disappointing accord that evades painful cuts.

Even though the agreement will slash back the number of nuclear warheads in superpower arsenals, some US scientists estimate each side will still have forces equal to 60,000 bombs like the one dropped on Hiroshima in Japan in 1945.

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The chief US negotiator, Richard Burt, described it on Friday as "the first real strategic arms reduction agreement in history."

This is because earlier pacts, dating from 1972 and 1979, sought merely to put a lid on nuclear stockpiles, and in practical terms failed even to do that.

Obligations

Start obliges each side to reduce within seven years to a limit of 1,600 "delivery vehicles" — long-range ballistic missiles or bombers — equipped with a nominal 6,000 warheads.

But a major loophole in the treaty allows that a bomber, no matter how many free-fall nuclear bombs or short-range nuclear missiles it may be carrying, is still only counted as one warhead.

In addition, sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs) — slow-flying drones fired by submarines or surface vessels — are excluded from the ceiling, and under a separate agreement each side will be allowed 880 of them.

Even champions of the treaty admit that as a result, the total number of US and Soviet strategic warheads will be reduced not by half, as advertised, but by something like a third.

According to the National Resources Defence Council, a US pro-disarmament group, the number will shrink from almost 24,000 to about 16,000 — still enough to destroy the world many times over.

The council says both sides' budget problems would have forced this sort of reduction anyway by the end of the decade, and that only outdated weapons will be scrapped, leaving the field open for sophisticated new arms.

The Start treaty has the character of making a virtue of necessity, says the council's Robert Norris. "As with many past treaties this will be arms control without pain or sacrifice."

But US advocates of the treaty say its main advantage is that it cuts back on land-based ballistic missiles, especially the huge and dreaded 10-warhead Soviet SS-18, whose numbers will be halved from 308 to 154.

They say missiles of this type are destabilising because with their high accuracy and short flight-times that could encourage a pre-emptive first strike against enemy missile silos.

Start, they argue, will mark a move away from vulnerable fixed-site missiles to elusive mobile, cruise and sea-based missiles and make it less likely that either side will start a war for fear of losing its nuclear deterrent.

Relative neutrals in the debate, like former US arms negotiator Paul Warnke, believe the treaty is worth having despite its drawbacks.

"It is probably the best step at this time," Warnke said. "It would be a mistake to re-negotiate a good treaty."

Both superpowers remain sensitive to arguments that even with the treaty in force, the huge array of weapons they will still be pointing at each other runs counter to the talk of peace and co-operation they are swapping at this week's summit.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Potential oilfield

Chevron, Moscow sign agreement

WASHINGTON, June 3, (Reuters): Chevron signed an agreement with the Soviet Union yesterday that opens up a potential multi-billion-barrel oilfield — one of the gems of the oil-rich Caspian Sea — to possible development by the American oil company.

The deal would be part of a previously announced planned joint venture between the Soviet Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry and Chevron to develop oilfields in the Caspian Sea.

The signing at the Soviet embassy came one day after President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev clinched a broader trade agreement, a surprise card in the package of summit treaties announced so far.

This reaffirms the agreement signed by President Gorbachev, Yuri Maslukov, head of the Soviet state planning agency, Gosplan, said after the signing.

In the list of major contracts we intend to establish with the United States, this one is probably the most essential," he added. Chevron said the Tengiz oilfield in the northeast Caspian Sea was the jewel in the crown of Soviet oilfields and possibly the most important field in the world.

This is a milestone. Tengiz is the largest oilfield discovered in the last decade," said Richard Matzke, president of Chevron Overseas Petroleum, a Chevron unit.

The agreement opens the way for an immediate feasibility study at Tengiz, which Soviet officials say has potential reserves of 25 billion barrels.

Matzke said production should begin "in the framework of one to two years" but added, "the Soviets would say six months to a year."

Gosplan's Maslukov said: "We hope we'll run three years ahead of deadline and increase output and labour efficiency threefold."

Energy analysts say Soviet oil output fell last year by about 400,000 barrels per day to 12.1 million barrels per day.

They expect production to fall by another 200,000 barrels per day this year due to strikes, declines in big fields and a lack of modern technology.

Joint ventures could help reverse the trend and the embassy signing was characterised as a venture on a grand scale struck between two giants.

Energy use set to soar

ALGIERS, June 3, (Reuters): European Community energy consumption is set to soar and greatest demand will be for natural gas, the community's top energy official said today.

Energy Commissioner Antonio Cardoso E Cunha told a news conference unification of community markets set for 1992 would spur economic development in less developed parts of the continent.

"The harmonisation of social conditions in the continent will require massive quantities of additional energy, even if the community carries out very sophisticated programmes to economise energy," Cardoso E Cunha said.

"We will need a lot of energy, and natural gas will be the preferred form. From a number of technical and environmental standpoints, natural gas is the least bad fuel."



Key players from Horizon management meet and demonstrate how Horizon's teamwork works.

Horizon '90 in unity and strength

Strategic action plan

HORIZON recently held a network-wide management meeting, its first for the nineties, at the agency's regional headquarters in Athens, involving Horizon managing directors and other key people from the agency.

"It was a time for congratulations and a time for serious planning for the nineties," stated Rafic Saadeh, the network's chairman. "The nineties held its challenges for us," he continued, "and fortunately ended with a banner year — a trend we'll work hard to continue."

The theme of the two-day working session was unity, Saadeh reflected. "One phrase sums up our goals in the nineties, in the unity, the success. 'I'm sure this meaning is found as a proverb in every culture in the world, but for us at Horizon it takes on a special significance for the next decade.'"

The meeting resulted in the development of a strategic action plan for '90s, a challenge which includes reinforcing Horizon's image and network wide corporate identity, and a continued focus on growth, creative excellence and uniform service across the network.

"The talent of four people is Horizon's real asset," Saadeh continued. "These meetings are designed to enrich that asset. This year we were happy to acknowledge a number of outstanding achievements, both from individuals and from teams. We've developed a network-wide momentum that's taking us to higher and higher levels of service. That's a fact evident in our growing blue chip client list and our expanding region-wide resources."

US employment growth is down

Leading economic indicators plunge

NEW YORK, June 3, (UPI): The nation's economy continued to show signs it is losing vigor amid a weaker-than-expected May jobs report, flat housing inventories and a decline in new building permits.

The US unemployment rate dipped to 5.3 per cent in May with the hiring of legions of temporary workers to help collect data for the government's 1990 census, the Labour Department said Friday.

But private payrolls were little changed as the manufacturing sector continued to eliminate jobs and the construction industry hired fewer people than usual.

The May report indicated that job growth in the service sector, which has been the main employment catalyst, is beginning to deteriorate.

Sales of new single-family homes fell 1.6 per cent in April for the fifth straight monthly decline and the worst showing in nearly eight years, the government said Wednesday.

Private economists expected a somewhat better sales showing, and expressed concern

about the fastest inventory of unsold new homes since July 1982.

"Interest rates are too high. Employment growth is down. Personal income is down," economist David Seider at the National Association of Home Builders said. "These are the fundamentals of housing demand. They're all weak."

But in the hard-hit northeast, sales jumped by 18 per cent in April, while dropping by 2.1 per cent in the Midwest, 6 per cent in the south and 6.4 per cent in the west.

The index of leading economic indicators plunged 0.2 per cent in April on the third straight monthly decline in new building permits, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

Economist Robert Delli, at Northern Trust in Chicago, said housing construction "has been weak for a while and stands to be weak for a while."

April's 0.2 per cent decrease in the government barometer of future economic activity was in line with the expectations of private

economists.

"The index is still telling us what it has been for some time, that we've got a pretty weak economy," said Cynthia Latta, an economist at DRI/McGraw Hill, a private consulting firm in Lexington, Massachusetts.

"Since the index looks ahead, this suggests there isn't going to be any early rebound in growth," Latta said.

But a report by the National Association of Purchasing Management said the manufacturing economy increased for the second consecutive month in May with a surge in new orders that increased production growth significantly.

The Purchasing Managers index rose for the second consecutive month to 50.7 — the highest level since April 1989 — up from 50.2 per cent in April.

The Purchasing Managers report offset the weak job data as investors continued to remain bullish.

The stock market was up sharply during the week, bolstered by computers and technology

issues, with the widely followed Dow Jones Industrial Average twice testing new highs.

In corporate news, Gerald Greenwald, vice chairman of the Chrysler Corp., rocked the No. 3 automaker with the announcement he was resigning to lead employee efforts to buy UAL Corp., parent of United Airlines.

If the proposed \$4.38 billion deal is successful, Greenwald would become the carrier's chief executive officer.

To fill the shoes of Greenwald, who had long been expected to succeed Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca when he retired, Chrysler expanded the responsibilities of two executives, Robert S. Miller Jr. and Robert A. Lutz.

Greenwald was the third Chrysler official in as many weeks to resign.

In other executive suite changes, former secretary of energy John S. Herrington was named Chairman of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc., replacing William Jovanovich, the strong-willed executive who led his company's successful 1987 effort to fend off a

hostile takeover bid by British publisher Robert Maxwell.

Harcourt was able to thwart Maxwell by adopting a \$3 billion recapitalisation plan that has since forced the company to sell assets, including its lucrative sea world theme parks, to reduce the staggering debt brought on by that plan.

Canada's Belzberg family, which had hoped to buy or gain sway over Armstrong World Industries Inc., sold its 12 per cent stake in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania-based floor products maker after a one-year fight.

Last month, Pennsylvania passed a strict anti-takeover law in sympathy with Armstrong.

Tektronix Inc., Oregon's largest high technology company, disclosed a major restructuring that includes the elimination of 1,300 jobs, cutting its work force by almost 10 per cent.

Tektronix said the moves will result in a one-time charge of about \$70 million in the company's fourth quarter.

China to open first futures market shortly

BEIJING, Jan. 3, (AP): China in August will open what it says is the first futures market in a socialist country, an official newspaper reported today.

The China Daily said the first futures trading centre will be located in the central China city of Zhengzhou and will handle wheat transactions.

The nation originally planned to start the Zhengzhou market in 1988, but the opening was delayed by inadequate planning and possible ideological reservations about the suitability of futures markets in a socialist state.

In the past, China has branded futures markets as a form of capitalist speculation, and the nation's current conservative leaders have stressed that market forces must play a subsidiary role in China's planned economy.

A futures market allows traders and producers to negotiate a set price for what they think a commodity will be worth at a future date. The seller is guaranteed that price.

Although most agricultural products must be sold to the state for a set price, an estimated 65 million tons of agricultural commodities circulate in the free market every year.

Poor regulation of the free market has led to wild price fluctuations for produce and livestock, leading to serious supply-demand gaps. A futures market should help alleviate that problem.

The paper said foreign dealers will not be allowed to participate in the Zhengzhou market at the outset.

However, in February, the Chicago Board of Trade signed a memo of understanding in which it agreed to help the Chinese government set up futures markets.

French financial markets rattled

PARIS, June 3, (Reuters): French financiers and investors are jittery that capital gains taxes might be raised after a tough speech by President Francois Mitterrand about wealth from speculation which hit stock markets and the franc.

Senior ministers lined up to echo Mitterrand's worries about social inequalities in France, carrying the implicit threat of a crack down on what he called "purely speculative gains."

"Today, you can get rich while you're asleep," Mitterrand said last Tuesday, contrasting the easy money to be made from property and share speculation to the plight of the low-paid.

The stock market reacted quickly — in the three days after Mitterrand's speech, the CAC-40 index of leading shares fell

Threat of higher taxes

almost two per cent. The storm also weakened the franc, which has been vulnerable ever since a narrowly-defeated no-confidence motion undermined the government in early May, and the currency's weakness led to speculation about a rise in interest rates.

Mitterrand and Finance Minister Pierre Bergeyovoy appeared to single out property speculation as the main area of concern. But an official at the French Employers' Organisation, the CNPF, said the business and financial communities were worried about a rise in the tax rate on all types of capital gains.

The socialist deputies (members of parliament) claim firms dabble too much in financial operations. What they seem to be complaining about is that com-

panies are investing their liquid funds in things that give better and better returns," she said.

"These gains, most of the time, come from funds that are waiting to be put to some use. It's quite normal to invest them somewhere in the meantime," she added.

Gains made by companies — on property investments, or on securities or other financial transactions — are currently taxed at 19 per cent, raised from 16 per cent last year but still much lower than the 37 per cent on reinvested profits.

One possibility, — which Bergeyovoy called "not a bad idea" — is that these two rates could gradually be brought closer together and then fixed at the same level of 33 per cent.

Moscow starts commodities exchange

MOSCOW, June 3, (UPI): The city of Moscow yesterday established the first commodities exchange in the Soviet Union in a bid to lure people away from the black market and provide them with badly needed goods.

The Moscow city government earlier this year was taken over by radicals swept into office by residents of the Soviet capital fed up by long lines and empty shelves at stores.

"The city of Moscow, determined to switch to a market economy, has formed the first Soviet Commodities Exchange," the official Tass news agency said.

"The exchange was set up in an attempt to improve the distribution of much-needed goods, such as construction

materials, and is designed as an alternative to the burgeoning black market," Tass said.

The new exchange was another sign that regions and cities throughout the vast country are running ahead of the central government's plan to develop a "modified market economy" gradually over time.

"It will help regulate supply and demand and determine realistic prices to attract more commodities to Moscow," Tass said.

All legal prices are currently set by the state, and Tass did not say how much freedom traders on the new exchange will have to set their own prices.

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West struggling to agree summit package for E. Europe

LONDON, June 3. (Reuters): The West has run into problems trying to devise a debt relief package for struggling East bloc states to be submitted to a summit of the world's leading industrial countries in Houston in five weeks' time.

And Western officials drawing up the agenda for the Seven-nation (G-7) summit are still struggling to find a way to support Mikhail Gorbachev and prevent a collapse of the Soviet economy that could destabilise both East and West.

Officials say the problems are deep-rooted, and that time is running out. It may mean that they will end up doing little more than pledging sup-

port for Gorbachev's efforts to drag the Soviet economy out of crisis and praising East bloc states which are trying to shrug off communism.

The practical details of Western help could take far longer to work out and, in the case of debt relief for Poland, officials say a solution may not be at hand until early 1991.

"I don't think we have adequately studied how to extend extra debt relief ... it really hasn't been thought through," said one top Western finance ministry official closely involved in pre-summit negotiations.

And the magnitude of the Soviet problem means there has to be some major rethinking.

Monetary officials say the two issues are not set to dominate the July 9-11 summit of the Group of Seven nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy — to be hosted by President George Bush in Texas.

The Seven's "sherpas," an elite band of government officials who start preparing the annual summit as early as October the year before, will meet in Newport, Rhode Island in 10 days time and then in Houston immediately before the talks.

The officials will be drafting a communiqué expected to endorse the current G-7 strategy of fighting inflation — though outcomes remain to be

worked out—and will be seeking ways to rescue world trade talks from a deadlock between the United States and European Economic Community over farm subsidies.

But in marked contrast to previous years, when leaders have been presented with a largely complete agenda to rubber-stamp, turmoil in the Soviet Union and historic changes in Eastern Europe mean two main issues are in the air.

On debt relief, Western leaders will want to praise Poland's courageous programme of drastic economic reform but have been put on the spot by Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz's call last month for an 80 per

cent cut in the cost of servicing Warsaw's \$40 billion of debt.

French President Francois Mitterrand has already urged the West to extend the so-called "Toronto terms" for relief on loans owed to official creditors from the poor sub-Saharan African nations to big league debtors such as Poland.

Extending those terms, where one option is for creditors to write off a third of a nation's official debt, would allow the industrial world to help Egypt, Jamaica and the Ivory Coast, countries which have already won a sympathetic hearing.

But officials say the list would not stop there and would extend to the big

debtors of Latin America such as Brazil. The volume of official debt which the West might then be committed to granting relief on would rapidly exceed \$100 billion compared to just 10 billion for sub-Saharan Africa.

The US Treasury and Japanese Finance Ministry are thought to be reluctant to be sucked into that process and Washington has been arguing forcibly that the West's debt strategy is working as it is without any major change of guidelines.

Officials say that could spell lengthy new studies and negotiations taking in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. In the case of Poland, a working group of the "Paris

Club" of official creditors is examining Warsaw's request but an IMF credit package extends until March 31 next year — a more realistic deadline for a rethink.

As for the Soviet Union, the Seven's sherpas have already concluded there are no easy answers and are struggling to find a formula that will take into account the political trade-offs inevitably linked to arms reduction and German unification.

But officials trying to shape the Houston summit are now asking how long the West can afford to drive a hard bargain when the Soviet economy is slipping further into crisis every day.

15 endorse projects to boost Third World ties

Leniency urged for debtors

KUALA LUMPUR, June 3. (Reuters): Fifteen developing nations ended a summit today with a call for more money to be made available to poor nations to help them repay debts and a plea that those with arrears should not be punished.

Current measures to end the crushing debt problems of the Third World were also inadequate and needed to be enhanced, the Group of 15 (G-15) said in its final communiqué after a three-day meeting in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur.

"This includes a positive approach, and not punitive measures, to the problem of arrears with multilateral financial institutions," it said.

The United States has suggested to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund that non-payers be punished.

The G-15 gathers leaders or senior ministers from Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

The 15, which include some of the world's major debtors, owe about half the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt, an issue which has featured prominently in their inaugural meeting.

The group was formed after last September's Non-Aligned Movement summit in Belgrade and aims to force economic co-operation among developing nations.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told a news conference representatives of the 15 would meet soon to formulate "a common approach when dealing with the creditors."

"It is not our intention to



Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania and a veteran of Third World politics addresses the first summit meeting of a new Group of 15 developing nations on June 1, urging that the rhetoric of past Third World gatherings be replaced with action. Nyerere heads the South Commission, a think-tank for poor nations. (Reuters wirephoto)

avoid paying our debts but we must admit that the capacity to pay differs with different countries and the approaches have not been beneficial to everyone at the moment," he said.

He also said the 15 had endorsed three main projects to boost Third World co-operation.

These are a data exchange for trade and investment information, the use of central banks to guarantee bilateral trade payments, and a forum to bring

together businessmen and officials from developing nations.

The G-15 urged rich nations to stabilise exchange rates, lower real interest rates, free up their markets and link a country's debt-servicing capacity to its economic performance.

"Substantial additional resources need to be provided to back debt reduction operations and support adjustment measures," the communiqué said.

But the cry for more funds was backed by a promise that developing nations would carry out economic reforms to accelerate growth and development.

"We, on our part, are committed to undertake the necessary measures to mobilise domestic and attract foreign financial resources particularly direct investment and other non-debt creating flows," the communiqué said.

Communique urges flexibility in debt, trade access

KUALA LUMPUR, June 3. (Reuters): Following are the key points of a 12-page joint communiqué issued at the end of the Group of 15 meeting of developing nations in Kuala Lumpur today.

Debt servicing capacity of a country should be linked to its economic performance, and rich nations should lower interest rates, stabilise exchange rates, provide market access and help improve the international monetary conditions.

Multilateral financial institutions should not punish those with debt arrears, it said. "Substantial additional resources

need to be provided to back debt reduction operations and support adjustment measures."

Developing nations would improve trade access and co-operation among themselves and ensure that the Uruguay round of Gatt talks take into account their needs. It expressed concern over farm subsidies by some industrialised nations.

South nations want "a constructive and continuing dialogue" with the industrialised North, it said.

A South investment trade and technology data exchange centre would be set

up to disseminate information on trade and investment opportunities and technology transfer among South nations. A task force of central banks would formulate a mechanism for payments of trade among developing nations.

A business and investment forum would be organised to bring together businessmen, investors and government officials to boost South-South trade.

Rich and poor nations should equally share the burden of protecting the environment. Developing nations also need access to environmentally friendly technology at affordable cost.

Business support for govt seen fading

ANKARA, June 3. (Reuters): Turkey's business leaders are beginning to lose confidence in the economic policies of the right-wing Motherland Party, which they helped to power in 1983.

"We don't have time to await (the renewal of) confidence in the government's economic policies. We have to channel present resources to new investments, otherwise it may be too late," Cem Boyner, head of the Association of Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen (Tusiad), told members in late May.

When it came to office seven years ago the Motherland government embarked on a new economic model to replace what was an inward-looking economy. It was led then by Turgut Ozal, who last November became President and was succeeded as head of government by Yildirim Akbulut.

Its free-market policies have helped to improve Turkey's creditworthiness, which was hurt by foreign debt reschedulings of the 1970s, and to boost exports and eliminate exchange controls.

Key measures included positive policies on interest and exchange rates, easier import controls and stimulation of exports and foreign investments. But at the same time year-on-year inflation almost doubled to 63.5 per cent.



IPC launches new issue

Picture shows from left to right: Santanu Sarkar General Manager of J.M. Financial Limited, M.R. Mondkar vice president of J.M. Financial Limited, Mohammed Merchant managing partner of Hassan Jowhar Hayat Sons Co, building materials division and Ian H. Lundin executive vice president of International Petroleum Corporation.

IPC launched its new issue at the Kuwait Regency Palace which was well attended by prominent businessmen and media men. The seminar was followed by cocktails, a corporate presentation and dinner.

International Petroleum Corporation is known as one of the most aggressive and fast-moving companies of the international oil and gas exploration scene.

The company is primarily engaged in the exploration for and development of hydrocarbons throughout the world. As of March, 1990 it owns or holds interest in 27 million gross acres of prospective oil and gas properties in 13 countries.

The company is focusing on bringing the Bukha field into production and on preparing feasibility studies on exploitation of the Pandora gas field. In addition, the company plans to participate in over 10,000 kms of seismic data acquisition and a minimum of five exploratory wells totalling approximately 40,000 feet of drilling in: Ras Al Khaimah Libya, India, Malaysia and Yemen Arab Republic. The issue opens on 7th June 1990.

Gulf Air profit jumps

BAHRAIN, June 3. (Reuters): Gulf Air said today its 1989 net profit had increased elevenfold to 27.7 million dinars (\$73.6 million).

A spokesman for the Bahrain-based airline said this included revenues from the sale in 1988 of eight ageing Boeing 737s.

Gulf Air made a profit of 2.5 million dinars (\$6.6 million) in 1988 after two consecutive years of losses.

A statement from the airline said directors had approved the sale of eight Tristar aircraft to Omani aviation services in a deal worth \$212 million.

The airline agreed to lease the aircraft back at a cost of \$330,000 per plane for 31 months, it said. Airline industry sources say the Tristars are fourteen years old.

Gulf Air, owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Abu Dhabi, has announced plans to spend more than \$1 billion on 18 new aircraft over the next five years.

Last October it signed a \$500 million contract with the European consortium Airbus Industrie to buy 12 Airbus A-320s. The aircraft will be delivered between 1992 and 1994.

Gulf Air is also negotiating with banks on a \$372.6 million loan to cover 90 per cent of the cost of buying six new Boeing 767s.

New deal a boon for American farmers

Grain pact signed

WASHINGTON, June 3. (Reuters): The new US-Soviet grain pact, signed unexpectedly by the US and Soviet presidents during their Washington summit, guarantees American farmers a sure market for billions of dollars in sales and will psychologically boost world markets, trade analysts said.

"It's a done deal now. There is no going back after this and the grain markets should get a psychological boost from the signing," said Bill Biederman, research director of the grain brokerage firm Allendale.

Many analysts had not expected President George Bush and President Mikhail Gorbachev to sign the pact because of problems with a related trade agreement, but the two leaders surprised them on Friday by initialling the two treaties.

Moscow has been a major buyer of US grain since 1983 and

farm imports alone accounted for 70 per cent of its five billion dollars in trade with the United States last year.

American exporters and farmers have always looked forward to Moscow's hefty purchases to sustain prices and boost consumption of their crops.

But the new pact comes at a time when Moscow is facing a hard currency shortage in payments for purchases of farm goods ranging from grains to wool world-wide.

The five-year accord, that will replace an existing one from January 1, 1991, calls on the Soviets to buy at least 10 million metric tons of corn, wheat and soyproducts annually.

Under the present agreement, Moscow must buy a minimum of nine million tons of grain.

"We like to be guaranteed that we can sell the Soviets a minimum amount of grain and that's

what the signed agreement does," said Keith Heard, executive vice-president of the National Corn Growers Association.

"But the good news is that the Soviets are buying more than the minimum required, with US government approval, and prospects for more purchases in the future look very good," he added.

In the new pact, Moscow may buy up to 14 million tons of US grain and soyproducts without consulting the US government. The limit under the present deal is 12 million.

The Soviet Union has been on a grain buying binge since last September. So far Moscow has purchased over 16 million tons of US corn, nearly four million tons of wheat and about 1.7 million tons of soyproducts, according to latest agriculture department figures.

Wall Street stocks hit record

NEW YORK, June 3. (Reuters): Wall Street stocks breezed higher on Friday, sending blue chips through the key 2,900 barrier for the first time as markets grew more confident that a slowing US economy will mean lower interest rates.

Stocks are likely to stage another strong performance next week after breaching the stubborn 2,900 resistance level, market analysts predicted.

The 30-share Dow Jones industrial average ended up a strong 24.31 points, or 0.85 per cent at 2,900.97, after trading just points below the key level for much of the day. Bonds also rallied.

The market was jolted by a surprisingly weak US unemployment report, which convinced investors that the Federal Reserve would have to lower

interest rates to keep the economy from sinking into a recession.

The Labour Department reported that the unemployment rate in May slipped to 5.3 per cent of the work force from 5.4 per cent in April, but economists keyed in on the anaemic pace of new job creation that suggested sluggish economic growth. The temporary hiring of thousands of census takers helped lower the jobless rate, the department said.

The report convinced Wall Street that easier credit was just around the corner. Lower interest rates increase the ability of business to borrow and expand, helping earnings to grow and justifying richer stock and bond prices.

Social Roundup



Al Osalmi (left) with the ambassador and his wife.



Mrs Colombo welcomes a guest as the ambassador looks on.

Italians celebrate

Italian Ambassador Marco Colombo on Saturday hosted a reception on the occasion of his country's National Day. Among those who attended were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saad Al Osalmi, Undersecretary Faisal Al Dawood. A large number of Kuwaiti officials and diplomats also attended the reception held at the ambassador's home.



Some of the guests.



Labour Attache Bert Marin, Carmelo Calsado, Buddy Patungen, Dick Orense, Bong Pagutayao, Bernia Oliver and other Filipinos who gathered to say farewell to Palala.

Farewell to a friend

By Ruffy E. Sanchez

FILIPINO Consul-General Olivia Palala looked radiant, vivacious and fresh despite the scorching heat of summer and tactfully entertained some of her friends and colleagues in the embassy lobby. It was a moment to remember because "we had gathered to share our love and affection for this grand lady who taught us many things about life and deeply touched our hearts."

Years of hardwork and dedication in her diplomatic career earned her the title of Consul-General proving equal to her male counterparts in the field of foreign service.

The Spok officers and members led by Dr Rosario Luna and Dr Rosale Cada Austria turned the party into a more vibrant and cordial affair. The troika of Bernie Oliver, Bong Pagutayao and Dick Orense with their antics and spits provided comic relief. Finally, the party began in another building and ended in merriment. Spok president Dr Irvin Marcalda and Labour Attache Bert Marin helped to make the evening a success.

Friends will be friends... so goes a popular hit, and Consul-General Olivia Valera Palala will always be a part of the Filipino community although she may no longer be among us. Her good deeds and invaluable contributions to every organisation will be a recollection of her unforgettable deeds.

Surely we'll miss her. She's leaving this week to take up her new post at the Home Office in Manila.

Ms. Palala leaves Kuwait on Tuesday.



Palala (fifth left) with Dr Rosario Luna, Dr Rosale Austria, Dr Irvin Marcalda and other members and officers of Spok.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Holy Quran
9.40 Good Morning
9.45 Cartoon Serial
10.00 Good Morning: news summary
10.15 News via Satellite (repeat)
10.30 Al Sayyed Al Hawa: Arabic serial
11.20 Songs and Music
12.00 Nawadar Bu Alawi: Arabic serial, ep.2
12.30 News Summary
12.35 Closedown

Evening

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.30 Sally: cartoon serial
5.00 Mama Anisa and children: presented by Samiya Mohammed
6.00 Sana'a Al Sayoof: Arabic serial, ep.2
7.00 Songs
7.25 Qurao and Scico: presented by Dr Shawki Ibrahim
8.30 Good Evening: local magazine show
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Rajul Wal Qataar: Arabic serial, part one. Starring: Hamdi Ghai, Farouk Fishawi, Ilham Shahin, Sana'a Yunus.



The Equaliser, at 9 pm on KTV2.

11.00 Min Alf Ila Alaya: Interview with writer Anas Mansour. Hosted by Tareq Habib.
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite
12.50 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

9.30 Holy Quran
6.10 Thunder Cats: Cartoons
6.30 Animals of Africa: "Okavango Swamps". Wildlife in the swamps of Botswana.

7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of Arab and world news.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "Poetic Licence". Charles wants to become a poet to impress his girlfriend, Lou Anne. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Around the World: this documentary brings news and views from countries around the world.
9.00 The Equalizer: "Prisoner of Conscience". McCall discovers that the killer of a Chilean poet is the same man who murdered his father. Starring: Edward Woodward.
10.00 Family Matters: "The Quilt". Laura launches a search for a missing quilt. Comedy.
10.30 Classic Colour Movies: "Stratton Story". Starring: James Stewart, June Allyson. The rise and fall of a baseball star.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

Social

Sri Lanka get-together

June 8: 5 pm Sri Lanka New Year get-together, at Al Salam Hotel; entertainment by Super Top Ranks. Entry passes will be available at door.

LIL June 4: LIL will hold Latino programme; Regency Palace Hotel; 8 pm sharp; doors open: 6 pm, close: 7.45 pm. No one will be allowed to enter after programme begins. Door charge. Extravaganza features performers from Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina and other Latin countries.

Kuwait Nomads R.F.C. June 7: Thursday; Oval Ball at the Hunting and Equestrian Club, 8 pm for 8.30 pm start. Full details from R. Houston (5658435); G. Adams (5644533); S. Hill (5391720).

PAC membership THE Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) have launched a membership campaign. All Pakistanis are welcome. Membership forms available from PAC. For details contact A S Qureshi (5716388); A S Ghazali (5631815); N Khan (4843578); Z Butt (2414570).

Kuwait Players AGM JUNE 4: Kuwait Players annual general meeting: 8 pm, Al Foz, Messilah Beach Hotel.

At Ramada Al Salam Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.

At Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight. Al Gandout Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food. Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

Italian food promotion, until June 6, at Al Bender Coffee Shop.

At the SAS Bistretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine: lunch and dinner. Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet. Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Holiday Inn Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests. Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the Meridian La Brasserie Restaurant Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you. Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialties. Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day. Versailles: Business lunch and dinner featuring foodie; grilled food.

French food promotion: until May 31, specialties from Provence, south of France, will be featured in the Versailles Restaurant.

At the Plaza: Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu. Loluwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks. Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Messilah Beach Al Mubarakiyah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine. Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band. Al Berdownah: BBQ on Thursday to beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

PAC show cancelled June 7: The PAC committee has cancelled the event scheduled for June 7 at Sharq Hall due to the demise of their chief adviser, Shafi Saani on May 25. A new date will be announced later.

Konkani Play June 15: 5 pm. IAC, Fuaoites. The K.C.W.A. will perform a Konkani play *Tho Maka Naka*. Gate passes now available. For details contact Charles Vas — Tel: 4312952.

Murchana June 15: Murchana, a musical evening, featuring Beogali, Hindi and semi-classical songs at Meridian Hotel. For reservations call 5640389 after 5.30 pm; or 4893424.

Summer Rock Concert June 4/5/6: High Spirits and Seventh Sky rock concert; music from Police, Dire Straits, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses etc. For reservations call 5387998/2563395 after 5 pm.

Daniella bowling June 7: Daniella ends social season by inviting all Dames for a relaxed bowling evening, 7 pm. For details of venue contact Helmut — Tel: 3715619; or Winnie — 5733382.

French conclude lecture season

THE French Cultural Centre recently concluded their series of lectures for the month of May with a discourse on The Pacific Space and the European Space. The lecture was given by French Ambassador Jean Bellivier. The theme was first published in a recently published book by J. Attali.

The cultural centre, which is active in promoting various events, has had a full season of cinema showings, lectures and other cultural events.

Among those who attended were Second Counsellor Edouard Crespin, Cultural Attache Pierre Bourlion, Moroccan Ambassador Abdul-Wahed Ben Masoud and First Counsellor Jean Pierre Galtier. Tunisian Ambassador Mohammad Kaebachi was also present.



French Ambassador Jean Bellivier



Tunisian Ambassador Mohammad Kaebachi (second left).



Law graduates hold meeting

The Malayalee Law Graduates Forum in Kuwait recently held a meeting to discuss the travel problems faced on the Kuwait-India sector. Recent changes in the Indian legal system were also discussed.

The meeting was presided by Samuel John. P.O. Thomas Panicker welcomed guests. A.J. Sebastian proposed a vote of thanks. The meeting was also attended by Jameela Ibrahim, a lawyer from Quilon.

The forum decided to discuss the Indian Customs Act at their next meeting, scheduled for June 16.

Above: Jameela Ibrahim, Samuel John, Thomas Panicker and other members of the forum.

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LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



NAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hodes



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mont Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



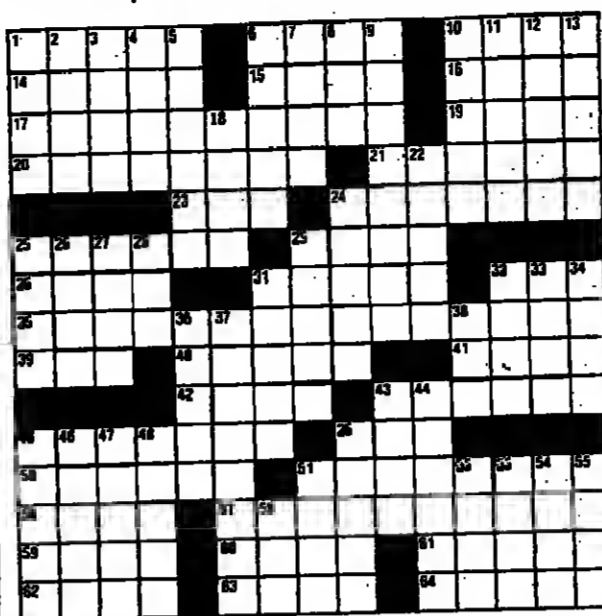
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Scam
- 6 Camel's air companion in WWI
- 10 Transport
- 14 Sign of the Ram
- 15 Expect
- 16 Beginner
- 17 Hardy competitor
- 19 Test type
- 20 Plea
- 21 Typos
- 23 Pre-holiday time
- 24 Christopher or Amanda
- 25 Calumniate
- 28 Incarcerate
- 30 Van Gogh works
- 31 Molly Bloom's creator
- 32 Soul, in Caen
- 35 Hardy competition
- 39 Small cask
- 40 Oater bunch
- 41 Garaint's lady
- 42 Touched down
- 43 Cast
- 45 Rose
- 49 To a counter
- 50 Bicycle built for two
- 51 Garnish
- 56 Tony's kin
- 57 Hardy competitors
- 59 Follow the cheerleaders
- 60 Capri, for one
- 61 Appointee of Nero
- 62 Ages and ages
- 63 Author Kingsley
- 64 Cowboy, at times

DOWN

- 1 Title for Margot Fonteyn
- 2 Algerian port
- 3 Gossip
- 4 Equipment
- 5 Regard
- 6 Young hog: Var.
- 7 Shedand, for one
- 8 Mimic
- 9 Abandoned, as a ship
- 10 Rage
- 11 Tyrean king
- 12 Annoyed
- 13 — region
- 18 Privileged person
- 22 Sovereign
- 24 Actor John from Roanoke
- 25 Wharf
- 26 Land of
- 27 Publiciza
- 28 Ninny
- 29 Medieval action
- 31 — Broz, aka Tito
- 32 Florence's river
- 33 Naturalist John
- 34 Wraps up
- 35 Gardener's need
- 37 Ivy league member
- 38 Still
- 43 Foot area
- 44 Icer
- 45 Accumulate
- 46 Prohibition
- 47 Hamburger helper
- 48 "Golden Boy" author
- 49 Celebrations
- 51 Painter of limp watches
- 52 Decorate anew
- 53 "Take — from me"
- 54 Meter or gram lead-in
- 55 Danish weights
- 58 Belief

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SCARCE FRANCES
STORIED RIVULET
CANNONS ASININE
ARGOTS USED MOL
LEA UTTER HARE
ODS CRITER PATIO
GRINS COVETS
AFFRONT COMESAT
BERING GONER
SLOPE CROSS CSA
COME REAST ROB
ONT MLOS REFINE
NIAGARA MARITAL
OEGAUSS AIRLINE
SEMITTE INSECT

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHAFIE
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ7 ♥AJ6 ♦Void ♣AJ6543

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Despite the misfit, you cannot pass, so be careful in selecting your next bid; you want to make the nature of your hand crystal clear to partner. We know some scientists who would now bid three hearts, but we believe that is more likely to sow confusion than anything else. We opt for three no trump.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK875 ♥852 ♦1084 ♣KQ

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—If you play fourth-suit forcing, this is easy—bid two hearts and see what partner does next. If you do not, you have a nearly insurmountable problem. Our choice would be three diamonds, even though we don't have quite enough for a forcing jump raise.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K83 ♥K6 ♦AJ10 ♣QJ965

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—You have key cards in both of partner's suits, but no guaranteed eight-card fit. With your double stopper in the unbid suit and soft values in clubs, two no trump is the obvious choice.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q9654 ♥Void ♦Q8542 ♣732

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Be careful; partner could easily have no more than two spades on this auction, and is simply taking a preference. You have done all you can, especially since your heart void represents duplication of values. Partner would have bid four spades with a good fit. Pass.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠8752 ♥74 ♦AQ6 ♣KJ104

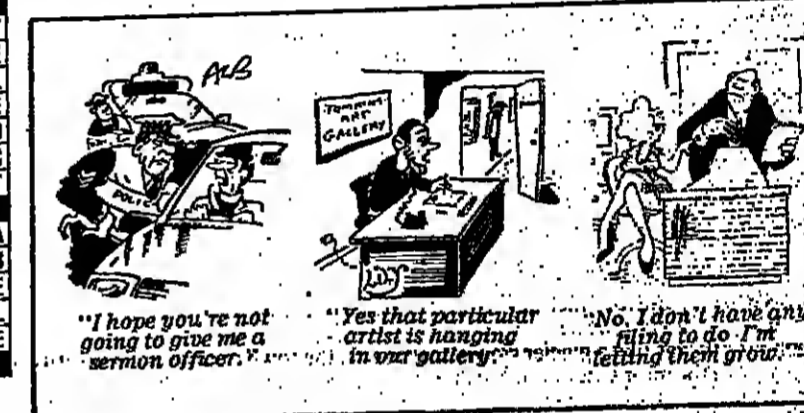
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ Dbl Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—You have enough to invite game, and you should do so in spades. Partner's double of fine make promises either four cards in the other or a hand good enough to follow up with a bid in a new suit, so don't be concerned with the quality of your suit. Jump to two spades.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ1074 ♥A5 ♦KJ109 ♣98

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2 ♦* Dbl Pass ?

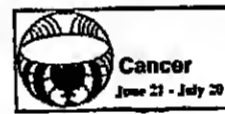
What action do you take?
A.—It is tempting to convert partner's double to penalties by passing, but with a huge fit in spades, that would be the height of folly—you could lose a slam! We would jump to four spades to tell partner about our good hand, and see whether North shows any interest.



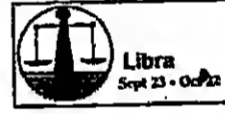
YOUR STARS



For the sake of your health you should try not to be so tense and anxious. A tendency to jump to conclusions should be avoided. Something of which you had high hopes will prove disappointing. Be industrious.



A new idea will tend to be stifled before it can come into its own. You should concentrate on essentials and avoid allowing yourself to be distracted. Do not allow your social life to get out of hand. Be considerate.



You should have a little more faith and confidence in yourself. Something you have been trying to learn will suddenly "click" into place. However there is still quite a bit to learn so do not leave it there. Be less fussy.



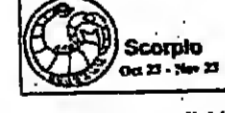
You should do all you can to avoid emotional complications. Pursue what interests you but not to the point where you neglect what has to be done through it is rather boring. Try a little harder to understand what is on your partner's mind. Be responsive.



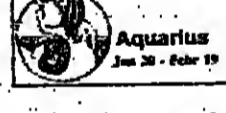
You will be rather inclined to get things out of proportion and should do all you can to rectify the trend. You should make sure that something mechanical which you use frequently is properly maintained. And avoid tampering with electricity. Be courteous.



Do not permit your emotions to run away with you but do not curb them too greatly either. There is still a lot to learn something you thought you had mastered. However make sure you do not learn more about the subject than your interests or you are ever likely to need.



You are more liable to follow your fancies and to mistake what you would like to be for what is. Make sure you do not give up too soon, preserve. However do not be obstinate, give up if you are getting nowhere. Be meticulous.



You will not make as rapid progress as you would have wished. Do not lose heart instead try just a little harder. Do not believe all you hear but do not be too critical either. Be frank.



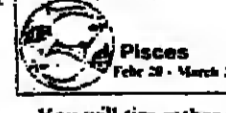
You will be confronted by some changes and should adapt to rather than resist them. You should not try to turn your back on reality. Attend first to what is important leave secondary matters for later. Be swift.



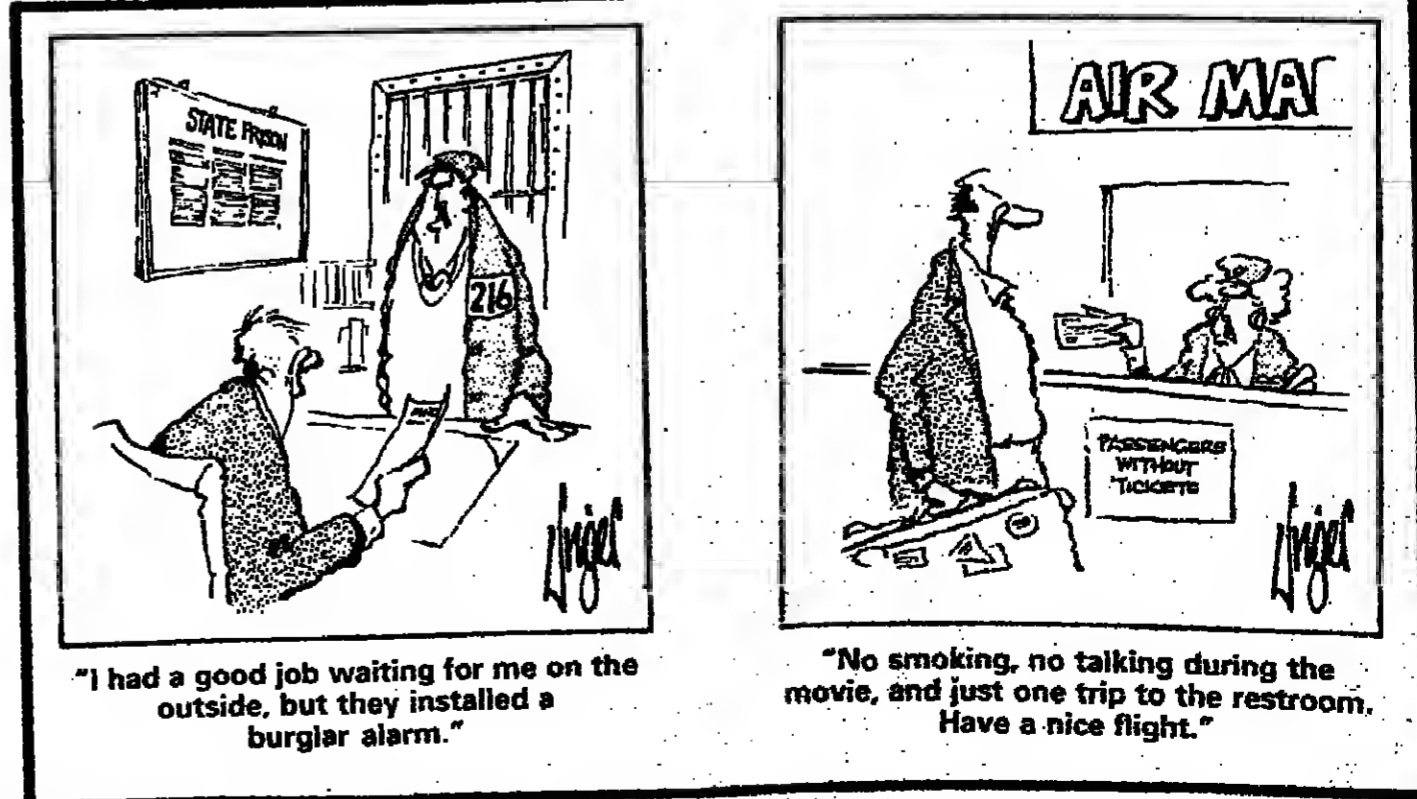
You should show more goodwill towards others. Do not take too much for granted, and do not assume things are as you would like to be. Do all you can to stop something coming between you and your partner. Be attentive.



You should make sure you get enough exercise, but not to the point where you exhaust yourself. Show just a little more goodwill towards others, even if they do not towards you. What seems like a good opportunity may not be. Be moderate.



You will tire rather more easily and should do what is most important first. You should not expect to have all things your own way. If you do you will be most disappointed. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 35. Try to see things from other people's point of view too.



Entertaining fare, incredible adventures

Taking Care of Our Own in this novel domination of the world, through nuclear blackmail. What about Japan's vaunted anti-nuclear stance? Japanese businessmen think differently and implement their own policy — hiding nuclear bombs in Japanese automobiles and secretly exporting them into America and other countries.

Hero Dirk Pitt's assignment: to stop the Japanese. If you like adventure, this novel has plenty, including a modern-day man-hunters-man chapter with credit to Richard Connell's story, *The Most Dangerous Game*.

And, if you can get over the Japan-bashing and the lucky coincidence that the United States, during World War II, just happened to drop an as-yet unexploded nuclear bomb in Japanese waters in just the right spot, this story is an incredible adventure.

Sweet La-La Land, By Robert Campbell (Penguin, 270 pp., \$18.95)

A good mean streets read.

The private eye Whistler tracks a lost youngster. He goes from California to Appalachia looking for him, not realizing his quarry is in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, a

man who did time for murder is put back on the streets, where his behaviour is not encouraging. Elsewhere, a low-budget moviemaker throws a kinky party for himself.

Walter Winchell: A Novel, By Michael Herr (Knopf, 158 pp., \$18.95)

What an odd book is this. Its cover says it is a novel, but its preface says it "began its life as a screenplay." Its Library of Congress Catalogue data lists it as fiction, but this reader remembers much of what it describes in the 1940s and thereafter as actually happening.

For folks who do remember the '40s, the book is a nostalgic treat, recalling Winchell's frenetic radio delivery and the hold he had on middle America as well as Broadway. (Actually, the Winchell voice lives on in TV re-runs, narrating *The Untouchables*, which were as larded with imagination as many of WW's scoops).

Winchell was an early and highly vocal opponent of home-grown Nazis before World War II and a super-patriotic supporter Franklin D. Roosevelt and the war effort during hostilities. He became loudly anti-communist after the war and one of

the interesting aspects of the book is Herr's explanation of how Winchell became a camp follower of Senator Joe McCarthy. That part, this reader never heard before.

September, By Rosamunde Pilcher (St Martin's, 536 pp., \$22.95)

THIS new novel by Rosamunde Pilcher, author of the megahit *The Shell Seekers*, is sure to be among the books people carry off for summer vacation reading.

September is a little like reading a soap opera about two families in the small Scottish village of Stratherry. There are the Airds, mother Violet, son Edmund and his wife Virginia, and their son Henry, plus Alexa, Edmund's daughter by his first marriage.

There are Archie and Isobel — Lord and Lady halmerino, close friends of the Airds — who look for ways to bring in extra money. Archie is hampered by his tin leg, lost in service in northern Ireland. Their daughter, Lucilla, and her boyfriend Jeff link up with Pandora, Archie's flamboyant sister, who left home two decades ago.

And then there's Edie, a housekeeper-family friend of the Airds, and her loony

sister Lottie Carstairs, who harbours long forgotten secrets. Perhaps to satisfy her Trans-Atlantic readers, Pilcher, who is British, throws an American into the plot, too.

September is entertaining fare, even though a couple of loose ends are tied up too conveniently, but where this book shines is not so much the plot or the characters, but in her descriptions of Scotland. Certainly, though, this is a novel that will keep her fans loyal.

Dragon, by Clive Cussler (Simon and Schuster, 542 pp., \$21.95)

Dragon is a lesson in global economics, allegedly Japanese style. The Japanese — particularly the businessmen — are the villains in this thriller, desiring to take over the world with economic power.

As the Japanese archvillain describes it, "economic conquest has no rules. Our ethics and morals come from a different breeding grounds than yours. In Japan, honour and discipline are knotted tightly to loyalties — to the emperor, family and the co-operation. We are not here to venerate democratic principles or charitable generosity. We concentrate our benevolent efforts on taking care of our own."

Entertainment briefs

Streisand stars

Barbra Streisand returns to the screen after a long lay-off to star in and direct *Prince of Tides* at Columbia Pictures.

Based on the best-selling novel by Pat Conroy, *Prince of Tides* will co-star Nick Nolte when it films on locations in New York and South Carolina beginning this month.

Nolte plays a southern high school English teacher and football coach who falls in love with a New York psychiatrist played by Streisand.

'Dangerous game'

CBS-TV will broadcast *The Most Dangerous Game*, an hour-long documentary special on June 15, a type of wild animal show usually found on PBS. William Devane, of *Knots Landing*, will narrate the special that presents footage from three wildlife filmmakers recounting the dangerous, often life-threatening situations they encounter in the wild.

The show features wildlife photographers Alan Root, Dieter Plage and left foot filming hippos, rampaging elephants, charging tigers and infuriated gorillas.

Star cast

Rohin Williams heads a cast that includes Jeff Bridges, Amanda Plummer and Mercedes Ruehl in Tri-Star Pictures *The Fisher King*, shooting on location in New York.

The Fisher King is billed as a dramatic comedy dealing with Williams' character, a former professor of medieval history who turns fanciful philosopher and converts tough businessman Jeff Bridges to his

way of thinking.

Terry Gilliam, one-time member of the Monty Python comedy troupe, is directing the film for producers Debra Hill and Lynda Obst.

Big bus

Universal Pictures has paid \$2 million for screen rights to Michael Crichton's new science-fiction novel *Jurassic* which will not be published until the fall.

The record-setting price for the novel will be more than matched by the studio's estimated \$40-50 million budget for the movie, which will be directed by Steven Spielberg and produced by his Amblin Entertainment.

Three other studios, 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros and Columbia, were in the chase for *Jurassic* with bidding opening at \$1.5 million. Crichton will write his own screenplay.

Soviet debut

Gone With The Wind will be exhibited for the first time in the Soviet Union this fall under the terms of a new releasing agreement between the USSR and United International Pictures.

United International has signed to distribute films with the Soviet British Creative Association, which includes the debut of *Gone With The Wind* in September as the first picture in the package.

Soviet British Association comprises Goskino, the Soviet State Committee on Cinematography, the weekly magazine *Ogonyok*, the contemporary opera, British broadcaster Central TV, and the British financier Sog Ltd.

Tales to brighten up dull summer evenings

By Barbara Della Porta

● "I woke up when the bomb came through the roof. It came at an angle, overflowed my bed by inches, bounced up over my mother's bed, hit the mirror and exploded up the chimney." So begins Michael Foreman's *Warboy*, (Arcade, 95 pp., \$16.95, all ages) a loving memoir of his wartime childhood in Pakefield on the Suffolk coast of England. There are superb vignettes, complete diagrams (so you'll know what to do), and wonderful snippets of knowledge like the difference between Anderson and Morrison shelters. (Andersons are underground; Morrisons are like big iron tables, good for ping-pong). Foreman gives us life on the front line all its strange eloquence and startling humour. A fine read.

● Another superb suspense story is Ken Follet's *Mystery Hikeout* (Morrow, 88pp., \$12.95, ages 9-12). In the dark tunnels of an abandoned film studio, a plot hatches. Mix two inquisitive boys, a burglary ring and real bullets on the wild wild west set and Follet produces a fast-paced tale that sets you on the edge of your chair.

● For a soft slip into summer, you can always count on James Stevenson. In his wacky *July* (Greenwillow, 32 pp., \$12.95, ages 7-9), once again, grandpa surfaces in those glorious melting watercolours to talk about when he was young — 50 years ago — "when each month was like a glacier slowly melting until... July." All the moments of too much to do at the beach and nothing to do come together into one splendid, sun-splashed tale.

● In Vicki Groves's *The Fastest Friend in the West* (Putnam, 175 pp., \$14.95, ages 8-12), Lori Sumner, 12, faces a lonely school year when her best friend deserts her for the popular crowd. She befriends a ragtag looking girl, Vern, who says she's from the 44th star in the constellation Cassiopeia. Vern's family is homeless, wandering from state to state as her father looks for work. Groves writes with sharp humour and compassion. The two lonely girls are wonderfully believable, graced with a peculiar and appealing grit.

● *John and the Fiddler* by Patricia Foley (Ill. Marcia Sewall, Harper and Row, 65 pp., \$12.95, ages 6-10) is a loving story of the friendship between a dying old man, Sean MacLoegaire, the fiddle-maker, and young John. They exchange stories and music and a special gift: A tale full of enough magic to make a dull summer afternoon sing.

● By contrast, in Peter Hartlang's *Old John* (Lothrop, 128 pp., \$11.95, ages 9-14), Jacob's irascible 75-year-old grandpa comes to live with them and sets their life on edge — particularly when he goes a-courting. Funny and sad and magnificent.

● *Plague Year* by Stephanie Tolan (Morrow, 210pp, \$12.95, ages 12 up) is a spell-binding, teeth-rattling yarn of a young boy, Bran, and the town that turns against him. Bran, the son of a serial killer, comes to live with his relatives in Ridgewood. Once the town discovers his identity, it loses its humanity, and turns upon the boy with frightening consequences. A hauntingly beautiful book, both painful and full of hope.



Margaret Thatcher wears a distinctive 'uniform'



Image expert Philippa Davies



Cher went from Sixties hippie to sex symbol

How to give yourself a winning image

By Claire Lockhart

WHY are some people winners and others losers? It has less to do with ability than the image they put over, according to communication expert Philippa Davies.

The success of George Bush in the 1988 American election has been put down to his opponent Michael Dukakis' reluctance to wear shoulder pads!

And with the exception of Jimmy Carter, every presidential election this century has been won by the taller candidate.

Actress Cher has spent a fortune on her image, changing from a Sixties hippie to the glamorous sex symbol she is today. "In showbusiness we want people to be larger than life," says Philippa. "Cher wears her own 'uniform' which is what most celebrities do. She is renowned for her outrageous Bohemian dresses, while Bruce Springsteen is known for jeans, T-shirt and muscle."

"Were Cher to suddenly start wearing more classic designs, or Bruce Springsteen tailored business suits, fans would find the change of image confusing."

As much as 55 per cent of the impression we make on others is determined by our appearance and a further 38 per cent is determined by the tone and pitch of our voice and our accent. In fact, only 7 per cent of the impression we make on others is determined by what we say.

"Many people do themselves and their abilities a great disservice through poor presentation," says Philippa, 33, who runs courses on public speaking and self-presentation. "Today, it is not enough simply to be 'good at something'. Other people have to see that you are good at something. The signals you send out let other people know 'who you are'."

"You send these signals through many channels. The choices you make about your appearance, your posture and body language, your voice and speech, your surroundings and even the stationery you

choose, convey powerful messages to others."

"When you first meet another person, you form a strong impression of them within the first few moments and a lasting opinion of them during the first thirty seconds to four minutes of meeting. First impressions are powerful and permanent."

"In Britain, Margaret Thatcher epitomises the successful politician who has built her image to help her win elections," adds Philippa. "Unlike the fussy bows and characterless dresses that she used to favour, she now wears a distinctive 'uniform' of simple, elegant suits. She has now transformed her speaking voice dramatically. Her pitch now sounds much lower and her pace is far more even. The image she presents is markedly more powerful than the one she had a few years ago."

"Politicians have to pay great attention to image, because they rely on the media, who concern themselves primarily with image. The majority of politicians have changed their image now. Almost everybody in public life does a certain amount of it — whether its conscious or unconscious."

Of course the clothes you wear are a vital factor. And in her book *Your Total Image* (Piatkus £15.00) Philippa shows how to create your own 'uniform' according to the styles and colours that suit you. "Make restrictions for yourself and stick to them," she insists. "Base your wardrobe on two or three neutral colours that complement one another, black or navy, grey and white perhaps, or brown, beige and cream."

"Restrict bright colours in shirts, blouses and ties to one or two, as well. Limit the styles you wear and only buy clothes that fit in with these restrictions."

"In the working wardrobe a man could limit himself to single breasted suits, button-down shirts, lace-ups and striped ties, for instance. A woman could limit herself

to short jackets, straight skirts, gold jewellery, plain court shoes. Your casual 'uniform' could be tracksuits or denim jeans and a jacket."

But what if you're being heard and not seen? Philippa says: "The sound of your voice should reinforce the impact of your appearance. Lazy, sloppy speech is as detrimental to your image as poor grooming. Most of us can recollect an occasion when we have met someone new, liked the way they look and then felt let down when they opened their mouths."

"In business today, telephone skills are extremely important. Many of us use the phone a great deal to establish initial contact with others. The more you use the phone, the more important it is to develop good voice control."

"You are making that vital first impression through your voice alone, and when you eventually meet the person at the other end, they will have formed a clear image of you."

And if others like the sound of your voice, you are less likely to be interrupted and cut short on the phone or in meetings.

Although Philippa believes our appearance is more important than what we say, she does recommend avoiding forms of address such as 'dear', 'darling', 'love' or 'sweetie'. She explains: "It can be extremely patronising. For some groups, like some show-business people, these terms of address may be commonplace, and widely reciprocated. But if you are not someone's 'dear' or 'darling' you may find this form of address extremely patronising. In which case, ask the person whether they would mind calling you by your name instead, or to make the point, start addressing them using a similar form. 'Pet' seems to be an effective one, to get the message over."

"It's quite useful to call people by their first names because it makes them feel a little bit important."

"People like car salesmen are trained to

call people by their names. You know, 'Here's this lovely little motor, Claire.' It makes you feel as though you matter. Americans do it all the time. And if it's transparently a technique, it's not very good. But if you can get it in once or twice, it works."

But in the end it still comes down to body language. Philippa says: "If I'm in a group and someone is using behaviour which demonstrates they want attention — talking or whispering, looking at their watch a lot or yawning — I will give them more attention and eye contact because that's what they want. And of course eye contact is used as a power thing. And if you give somebody more eye contact, they'll start to come round to your side."

Here are some of the "signals" we send out, revealing a great deal about ourselves:

Positive

- Leaning forward indicates interest, but can also indicate that you are putting in quite a lot of effort and seeking involvement at the expense of your self-possession, and it can therefore lower your status.
- Crossed legs. We often do this in the direction of the person we most like.
- Stillness suggests ease and comfort in a situation
- Open palms. Using gestures showing open palms of hands suggests we have nothing to conceal.
- Sitting asymmetrically demonstrates confidence in taking space.

Negative

- Nervous mannerisms: nail-biting, finger-and foot-tapping, playing with hair
- Touching the face associated with negative emotions like guilt and doubt
- Affectations: standing and walking with the hand ficked out to the side suggesting self-consciousness
- Pointing at people and waving your fist or thumping the table with it, shows aggression and tension

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: Though she tries to hide it, a co-worker drinks too much. She is also the one who complains most bitterly about her lack of a "good" sex life. Can it be the alcohol that is creating her sexual problems?

Answer: That's a difficult question to answer because alcohol can be both a liberator and an inhibitor. Some women report great sex while intoxicated, while others can't perform. This seeming contradiction could be due to the fact that sexual problems relative to alcohol have more to do with the reasons for drinking rather than the results of it.

Unlike their male counterparts, alcoholic women usually identify the onset of excessive drinking with a specific stressful event, like a divorce, loss of a loved one, or a health problem, such as infertility or breast cancer.

Drinking numbs the senses, takes the pressure off, relieves guilt, anxiety, or fills a void. Often, alcohol is used to "loosen up" and lessen anxieties that might inhibit sexual pleasure. In fact, it's not uncommon for women who have always used alcohol in this way to fear sex while sober. They associate arousal with inebriation, and early sobriety (three months to a year) may be temporarily fraught with loss of desire or an inability to achieve orgasm. Conversely, there are alcoholic women who perform well sexually only when they are sober.

The truth is, alcoholism is an unpredictable addiction. Personality changes, depression, family conflicts, impaired performance on the job, and self-hatred are all common byproducts which could lead to sexual problems. Physiologically, alcoholism can lead to diabetes, high blood pressure and cystitis, which are sure to have some impact on sexual function. Some studies even suggest that as high as

Drinking, sexual problems could be linked

74 per cent of chemically dependent women have been sexually or physically abused, often times resulting in an aversion to sex, or painful and difficult intercourse.

Though I can't evaluate your co-worker's problem with any degree of certainty, I'm sure that professional counseling would help overcome both her problems.

Question: Is a bone scan necessary after an X-ray has been taken? I may have to have this test and am wondering why, as well as what it will be like. Can you describe it for me?

Answer: Bone scans are used to evaluate bones and to see into areas containing abnormalities that have been caused by infections, fractures, tumours, or other disorders. They are safe and sometimes provide more accurate information than X-rays.

If you must have a bone scan, a liquid containing a little radionuclide (radioactive material) will be injected into a vein. In about two-hours, after your bones have absorbed that material, the scan begins. During it, radionuclide emits signals that the scanner picks up and converts into images of your bones. Signals from problem areas differ from normal one, so that they reveal areas where something may be wrong.

Scans take about 45 minutes. During the procedure, you lie still on a table as the scanner moves around your body. Should the scanner be stationary, the table will be moved. Immediately following the scan, you probably can return to work. Radionuclide is excreted from your body within a day or two. The scan may clear questions that your X-ray was unable to answer, and assist your doctor in making an accurate diagnosis.

Tony Awards nominees

City of Angels strong favourite

By Christopher Michaud

NEW YORK, (Reuter): The current Broadway season is likely to be remembered for restoring respect to the traditional American musical if the hit show *City of Angels* takes the lion's share of the 1990 Tony Theatre Awards — as many experts predict.

The Cy Coleman-Larry Gelbart satire of Hollywood's golden days and private eye movies of the 1940s is nominated for 11 Tonys, including those for best musical, best score and book, best director, best actor (two), best featured performance (two) and several technical awards.

Its jazzy score and double story — one told in colour and the other in black and white —

are unlike anything seen on the stage in recent years, and seem to appeal to all tastes.

City of Angels cleverly weaves together its two plots — that of a screenwriter struggling to retain his integrity while adapting his detective novel for the screen and the private eye story itself.

While Tommy Tune's *Grand Hotel*, *The Musical* topped the Tony nominees' list with 12, its reviews were mixed as compared to the universal raves won by *City of Angels*, making *City* the strong favourite for the top award when the Tonys are presented on Sunday night.

It has already won the New York Drama Critics Circle and Drama Desk awards.

The other nominees in the category are *Meet Me in St Louis*

and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love*.

On the drama side, a race is shaping up for Best Play between an adaptation of *The Grapes of Wrath* and August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*, which won a Pulitzer Prize for drama this year.

The Piano Lesson, already cited as best play by both the Drama Critics Circle and Drama Desk, is the fourth in a series of plays by Wilson exploring black family life in the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is considered serious, stirring drama.

So, too, is *The Grapes of Wrath*, an adaptation of the John Steinbeck novel by Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

Other nominees include Craig Lucas' *Prelude To A Kiss* and

Peter Shaffer's *Lettice and Lovage*.

Shaffer's play stars Maggie Smith in a widely acclaimed and flamboyant performance.

Smith's performance — she plays a tour guide at an uninteresting English manor who makes up the estate's history during her tours — is likely to bring her the Tony Award that has eluded her so far.

The same might be said of Robert Morse, whose nightly interpretation of author Truman Capote in the one-man show *Tru* also won rave reviews.

Morse's main competition will come from Charles Dutton for *The Piano Lesson*.

Smith may get some competition from Geraldine James, whose performance as Portia in

The Merchant of Venice carried the show. She could well be a longshot winner.

Other nominees are Kathleen Turner for *Cal On A Hot Tin Roof* and Mary Louise Parker for *Prelude To A Kiss*.

On the musical side, James Naughton is likely to prevail over co-star Gregg Edelman in *City of Angels*. Edelman has the more understated role as the screenwriter, while Naughton is the flashier, more memorable private eye.

Bob Gunton, who starred in a much praised revival of *Sweeney Todd*, is also nominated.

Tyne Daly is likely to walk off with the best actress award for her role as Mama Rose in a revival of *Gypsy*.



Kathleen Turner: nominated for a Cal On A Hot Tin Roof.

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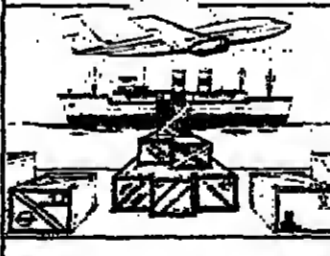
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Soviets, Romanians to test Argentines

ROME, June 3, (AP): Argentina is defending the World Cup with an aging squad, and its true form will be tested early by the Soviet Union and Romania in the tight Group B.

Cameroon, an underdog, will get a first shot at Diego Maradona in the tournament's opening match June 8.

Opening games have often been low-scoring boria, and a defending champion

has not won one in 20 years, boding ill for the already troubled Argentines.

The Soviet Union, without stars Alexei Mikhailichenko and Igor Belanov, also face an uncertain future and will be severely tested June 9 by Romania, which has star quality in playmaker Gheorghe Hagi.

But no one comes close to the glittering status Maradona has achieved since he

led his team to the title four years ago in Mexico. This year again, he is Argentina's major — and only — trump card.

"He makes the difference on our team," said coach Carlos Bilardo.

After the opening match in Milan, Argentina moves to Naples, Maradona's home in the Italian League where local support is expected to be overwhelming. Bilardo can only hope it will inspire the

mercurial striker.

Argentina's offense requires Maradona to act as playmaker and striker at the same time — a tall order even for a superstar.

Mikhailichenko had been groomed for several seasons to carry the Soviet Union this year but a hum knee and an injured shoulder kept him out of the tournament.

Robson fails to get any answers

CAGLIARI, Italy, June 3, (AP): England soccer manager Bobby Robson returned from Tunisia with a headful of problems instead of a netful of goals.

Anticipating a confidence-boosting triumph over one of soccer's minnows, his star-studded team stole a 1-1 tie thanks to a late goal by a striker who plays for an English Second Division team.

Wolverhampton's Steve Bull wiped away the embarrassment of defeat. But his goal did little to instill any confidence in a side that showed little flair and looked tired of soccer.

Although England is planning one further warmup game against a Sardinian club on Tuesday, Saturday's game in Tunis was Robson's last chance to experiment.

In that respect, it was a disaster.

Robson wanted to see John Barnes, usually a winger, in tandem with Gary Lineker as a two-man strike force with Steve Hodge taking Barnes' wing position.

Barnes looked totally out of place alongside Lineker while Hodge contributed little from the flank.

Significantly, England's late goal came on a Barnes' centre from the wing that landed on Bull's head and ended up in the Tunisian net with a minute to go.

Choice

A week before the tournament opens, and eight days before England's first game against Ireland, Robson is no nearer deciding his first-choice lineup than he was three months ago.

Should he continue with the Barnes-Lineker linkup? Should Barnes return to his left wing position where he is likely to get more possession?

If so, who should play alongside Lineker? Peter Beardsley, one of England's four second-half substitutes, did little to show he has recovered his form.

Bull has scored four times in his seven appearances — including five as substitute. He appears the logical choice because of his strike record.

But Robson believes the powerfully built striker, less gifted than Beardsley, is a better weapon as a substitute.

Midfield playmaker Paul Gascoigne, playing for England on foreign soil for the first time, contributed to both goals.

His miscued pass sent Abdelhamid Hergal clear to shoot home from 35 metres in the 25th minute.

And his long pass out of defense to Barnes set up England's headed winner in the 89th minute.

Perhaps Gascoigne knew it was not going to be his day when Hergal slipped the ball neatly between his legs in the third minute to the delight of the 15,000 Tunisian fans.

Like Barnes and winger Chris Waddle, Gascoigne often was guilty of running into blind alleys instead of passing to unmarked colleagues.

Criticism

Robson could not hide his disappointment at the Tunisian game's overall performance.

"It was a most remarkable goal," the England manager said.

"We had three players there plus Shilton and they had one. And yet, from that ludicrous position, with one misplaced pass, the ball thunders past Shilton and into the net."

He sidestepped questions about England's lackluster performance. "There are no easy matches anywhere in the world any more."

"People must learn you cannot expect to come to a place like this and win 3-0."

Robson at least had praise for Lineker, who defied some rough handling to worry the Tunisian defense repeatedly.

"I thought that Lineker worked very hard and got a couple of chances despite some heavy marking," Robson said.

The Tunisians, who lost out to Cameroon in the play-off for a place in the World Cup, defended well and would have deserved a victory over England in the two teams' first meeting ever.

Belgium rout Mexico

Colombia, United States beaten

BRUSSELS, June 3, (Reuters): Two goals in three minutes from striker Marc Degryse helped Belgium to a 3-0 victory over Mexico in a World Cup soccer warmup match yesterday.

Belgium, minus veteran captain Jan Ceutemans who is recovering from a back injury, kept Mexico in their own half for most of the game.

The home side took the lead in

the 36th minute when Degryse headed a centre from Bruno Versavel past goalkeeper Pablo Larros.

Two minutes later the versatile Marc Emmers crossed and Degryse made it 2-0 with an unstoppable volley.

Midfielder Enzo Scifo, who proved his return to form in last Saturday's 2-2 draw against Romania, was tireless in setting

up attack after attack on the Mexican goal and took much of the credit for putting Belgium three up in the 50th minute.

He steamed up the middle of the pitch before flicking the ball to Marc van der Linden on the left wing.

Van der Linden supplied the perfect centre and Versavel hammered the ball into the net.

Mexico did not start to look dangerous until 10 minutes from the end when Misael Espinosa centred and striker Luis Roberto Alves was blocked by veteran defender Eric Gerets.

World Cup finalists Colombia were beaten 3-1 by Hungary in an international soccer friendly in Budapest yesterday.

The Hungarians shook the South Americans with two goals in the first 14 minutes and although the visitors pulled one back 18 minutes later, a 60th minute strike from Kalman Kovacs, his second of the game, settled the matter.

Midfielder Gyorgy Bognar put Hungary in the lead in the eighth minute, gratefully accepting the chance when Colombia's Freddy Rincon chested a ball into his path.

Six minutes later, Gyorgy Bognar swerved round Armando Perea and found Kovacs with a perfectly judged chip to make it 2-0.

Rincon strode on to a lovely through ball from Carlos Valderrama to bring the Colombians back in the match after a

period of tough physical challenges by the visitors.

The clashes led to Hungarian coach Kalman Meszoly leaving his bench for a word with his Colombian counterpart.

Andres Escobar was booked for a 43rd minute foul on Josef Szalma, but things settled down after that.

Hungary made five substitutes in the second half but unexpectedly Colombia continued unchanged.

Colombia held possession for long periods and looked like equalising but another error proved their final downfall.

Six defenders stood motionless as a long cross from the right fell at the feet of the unmarked Kovacs who scored from point blank range.

The United States, surrendering a first half lead, lost 2-1 to Switzerland yesterday in their last warmup match before the World Cup finals. The match was played in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Striker Bruce Murray rounded off a good move to put the visitors ahead in the 22nd minute, only two minutes after team mate John Harkes had hit the post with a fierce drive.

The young Swiss side, without several experienced players from newly-crowned League champions Grasshopper Zurich and Nanchatel Xamax, who clash in the Swiss Cup final on Monday, took time to settle.



Scifo set up Belgian attacks



Cup stadiums

All of Italy's stadiums hosting the World Cup matches are now ready for the June 8 opening. Above: an Italian youngster leaps off his skateboard in front of Rome's new Olympic Stadium, which will be the site of the final match. Right: a construction worker adds the finishing touches by placing number stickers on the seats in Della Favorita Stadium in Palermo. (Reuters wirephotos)



Muller to partner Careca in opener

ASTI, Italy, June 3, (Reuters): Muller said yesterday that he — not Bebeto — would start with striker Careca in Brazil's first World Cup match.

But coach Sebastiao Lazaroni refused to confirm or deny Muller's statement to reporters.

Brazil opens its World Cup campaign on June 10 against Sweden and is trying for a record fourth championship. But speculation has abounded over who would start alongside Careca.

Bebeto is a popular player in Brazil because he is one of the few remaining Latin American superstars to keep playing in his home country. Most other Latin soccer greats play for rich contracts in the European leagues.

Hours before Brazil whipped a local team 12-0 in a warmup game, Lazaroni summoned his players and told them what the starting lineup would be, Muller told reporters.

He said Lazaroni announced that Muller would start instead of Bebeto.

But Lazaroni refused to confirm or deny his statement, saying: "I have not yet decided on a starting lineup."

According to Muller, however, the lineup will be: Taffarel, Jorginho, Mauro Galvao, Mozer, Ricardo, Branco, Dunga, Alcamao, Valdo, Muller and Careca.

This lineup played the opening 50 minutes of yesterday's practice game against Favigliano, an Italian Fifth Division team. When the score reached 6-0 in Brazil's favour, Lazaroni sent in the bench.



Brazil's Mauro Galvao (right) in action against Favigliano. (Reuters wirephoto)

Italy end scoring drought

AREZZO, Italy, June 3, (AP): Italy's slumbering attack woke up with three unanswered goals yesterday in a 3-0 victory over the French First Division club Cannes.

Coach Azeglio Vicini's team had scored just twice in its previous eight matches. It was Italy's last warmup match before its June 9 World Cup opener against Austria in Rome.

Star forward Gianluca Vialli started the scoring in the 36th minute, converting a penalty kick awarded when he was tripped by Cannes defender Jocelyn Rico while driving to the goal.

Three minutes later, midfielder Fernando de Napoli doubled the score. Sweeper Franco Baresi started the play with a long feed for playmaker Giuseppe Giannini.

Giannini stopped the ball on his chest, then backheeled a pass to Vialli, who fired a hard drive that Cannes goalie Michel Dusseyer could not control. De Napoli pounced on the rebound and fired a bullet in the upper right-hand corner from just inside the penalty area.

Outside

Italy scored its third goal in the 71st minute. Veteran midfielder Carlo Ancelotti found Giannini in a crowd about 10 metres outside the penalty area. Giannini spotted Vialli flying down the left wing and hit him in full stride.

All alone, Vialli dribbled past Dusseyer and rolled the ball into the empty net.

Spain hardly broke a sweat to dominate a selection of local amateurs 8-2 yesterday, but coach Luis Suarez gave the team's performance a mixed review one week before the World Cup opens.

Real Madrid's Martin Vazquez scored three and assisted on two. His Real teammate Michel and Roberto each scored two goals while Emilio Butragueno added one.

Brazil favoured in Group C

ROME, June 3, (AP): Brazil, the first nation to win the World Cup three times, is favoured to dominate Group C in the 1990 championship despite a nagging injury that threatens to sideline star forward Romario.

The flamboyant Brazilians will tangle with Sweden, Scotland and Costa Rica in the opening round — and have the advantage of playing all three of their group matches in Turin.

No nation can match Brazil's overall record in international soccer, but the skillful South Americans have not won the World Cup for two decades. They last triumphed in 1970 and some critics argue they play with too much passion and too little pragmatism. This time they plan to emphasize team discipline and defensive efficiency.

Scotland has qualified for the last five World Cup final tournaments, but never has made it past the first round in nine attempts since 1954. Despite a proud record at club level, the Scots have invariably promised more on the international scene than they have delivered.

Scotland looks to have a well-balanced combination this time around with a defence expertly marshalled by experienced Richard Gough — although a stomach muscle injury to key central striker Mo Johnston will cause sleepless nights for coach Andy Roxburgh.

Sweden has qualified for the first time since 1978 but its best days in the tournament are long past. The Swedes finished fourth in 1938, third in 1950 and were runners-up behind Brazil in 1958 when they hosted the tournament.

The current squad features players of the quality of Liverpool libero Glenn Hysen, potentially exciting strikers in Mats Magnusson, Stefan Pettersson and Johnny Ekstrom and a good balance of youth and experience.

Coach Olle Nordin does not have extravagant ambitions. "Our goal is to survive the first round," Nordin said. "I don't see any reasons why we shouldn't do it."

Costa Rica never has previously qualified for the World Cup finals and is the rank outsider of the group.

The Central American team has gone through three coaches on its way to Italy and now is under the control of Bora Milutinovic, who guided Mexico's unsuccessful challenge four years ago.

The Costa Ricans lack players with major League experience, although goal-scoring midfielder Juan Cayasso and striker Hernan Medford will welcome the chance to shine on the international stage.

Brazil, however, is the team with the most class, regardless of whether PSV Eindhoven star Romario recovers from a nagging foot injury.

Cameroon aim to improve in World Cup

SELVA DI FASANO, Italy, June 3, (AP): Cameroon was undefeated in its first World Cup appearance in 1982, held eventual champion Italy to a draw and was a favourite of Spanish fans.

Now the "Indomitable Lions" of Cameroon are hoping to improve on that, though the road ahead will be tough.

Cameroon open the World Cup on Friday against defending champion Argentina in Milan, then must face Romania and the Soviet Union in other first-round matches in Bari. It will enter each game as a decided underdog.

But instead of fearing its clash with Diego Maradona's Argentina, Cameroon sees it as a chance to extend a trend of good results for underdogs in the opening game. A defending champion has not won that game in two decades.

"If we do well in the opening match, then we'll get better and better throughout the tournament," said forward Roger Milla, 38, a veteran of the 1982 squad, which earned three draws in as many games.

Apart from a few veterans, Cameroon's team is built on young legs, with standouts like strikers Cyrille Makanaky and Francois Omani Biyik.

"The 1982 team was built more into individualism. We play more together now and know better what is happening on the field," Milla said in French.

Germans hope to be star attraction

CALDARO, Italy, June 3, (UPI): West Germany, a bridesmaid at the last two World Cup soccer finals, is hoping to be the star attraction of the month-long wedding party that opens this week in Italy.

The German team arrived in this northern Italian town yesterday to open preparations for the World Cup, at which it is among the many

favourites with Italy, Brazil, Argentina and Holland.

"The squad is beginning to look in match form," West Germany coach Franz Beckenbauer said from the team's pre-World Cup training camp, after flying into Verona from Frankfurt.

"I can't wait to start playing real soccer, the one that counts," he added.

That day is a week away for

the Kaiser's crew.

After spending a few days in this wine growing region, Beckenbauer takes his team to Como Friday, where West Germany will train for the duration of the Cup.

After Argentina and Cameroon play the inaugural match Friday in Milan, Beckenbauer will give his team a light workout at the Milan stadium.

Haynes slams Essex for career-best 220

LONDON, June 3, (Reuters): West Indian opener Desmond Haynes hit a career-best 220 not out as Middlesex destroyed the Essex attack yesterday on the first day of their three-day county cricket match.

Haynes batted throughout the day at Ilford, hitting 33 fours, as Middlesex amassed a formidable 442 for two.

Mike Roseberry scored 135, also a career best, with 23 fours and a six in an opening partnership of 306.

Haynes' international teammate Malcolm Marshall, who has rarely had a chance to show his batting prowess for the West Indies, scored his second century in six days with 112 for Hampshire against Leicestershire.

Strike bowler Marshall, playing his last county season, posted a career-best 117 against Yorkshire on Monday.

Hampshire finally declared at 349 for seven then made quick in



Mike Roseberry



Malcolm Marshall



Chris Broad

Scoreboard

At Worcester: Yorkshire 222 in 66.5 overs (D. Bainton 61; S. Lampitt five for 54, I. Botham four for 65). Worcestershire 108 for four off 40.4 overs (D. D'Oliveira 41).

At Leicester: Hampshire 349 for seven declared in 94 overs (M. Marshall 112, C. Smith 80 not

out, R. Marr 59). Leicestershire seven for two wickets off five overs.

At Ilford: Middlesex 442 for two (D. Haynes 220 not out, M. Roseberry 135) V Essex.

At Tunbridge Wells: Nottinghamshire 477 for six declared in 109.3 overs (C. Broad 227 not out, D. Randall 178) V Kent.

At Hordham: Sussex 235 in 97.1 overs (A. Dodemaide 70; M. Watkinson three for 26). Lancashire 47 for one of nine overs.

At Bristol: Somerset 225 in 72.5 overs (R. Harden 81, S. Cook 40; D. Graveney four for 53). Gloucestershire 69 for two off 34 overs.

At Edgbaston: Warwickshire 202 in 55 overs (T. Lloyd 65, A. Moles 40; C. Ambrose five for 53, D. Capel five for 74). Northamptonshire 57 for two off 26 overs.

Other match

At Oxford: Glamorgan 388 for seven (P. Cottee 256, M. Maynard 59) V Oxford University.

Burrell runs wind-aided 100m in 9.94 seconds

DURHAM, North Carolina, June 3, (Reuters): Leroy Burrell showed again yesterday that he will be a major player among the world's sprinters this summer when he clocked a wind-aided 9.94 seconds in the men's 100 metres at the US Collegiate Athletics Championships.

"I can't say I've ever run better," said Burrell, a student at the University of Houston and one of Olympic star Carl Lewis' training partners. "I reacted very well to the gun."

And for more than 60 metres he accelerated, finally beating longtime collegiate rival Andre Cason of Texas A and M University by more than two metres.

It was the second wind-aided 9.94 seconds in two weeks for Burrell, who clocked the same time without an assisting wind last year in winning the US National 100 metres title.

Olympic 400 metres champion Steve Lewis of the University of California at Los Angeles won his specialty in 45.19 seconds, and Sheila Hudson of the University of California at Berkeley twice shattered the US women's triple jump record, finally bounding 14.04 metres to equal the fourth best ever.

Esther Jones of Louisiana State University won both women's sprints, clocking 11.14 seconds in a wind-aided 100 metres and winning the 200 metres in 22.49 seconds.

Charles Austin of Southwest Texas State won the high jump by clearing 2.33 metres, and Canadian Edrick Floreal, a student at the University of Arkansas, leaped 17.23 metres to win the men's triple jump.

SPORTS

China overwhelm Malaysia to retain Thomas Cup for 3rd time

TOKYO, June 3, (UPI): China rolled over Malaysia 4-1 in the finals today, retaining the men's Thomas Cup badminton title for the third straight time and sweeping both men's and women's honours.

The Chinese women turned back

South Korea 3-2 yesterday for a record fourth straight Uber Cup title. The Chinese men swept all three singles matches and took one of two doubles while Malaysia's brother team Razif and Jalani Sidek stopped China's sweep.

China's ace player Yang Yang, winner of the 1989 All-England championships, opened the Chinese assault with a straight 15-10, 15-10 victory over Rashid Sidek. Xiong Guobao, French Open champion, overpowered Foo Kok

Keong 15-6, 15-4 while Zhao Jinhua, reigning All-England champion, turned back Kwan Yoke Meng 15-10, 16-6 to give China an unbeatable 3-0 lead. Razif and Jalani Sidek topped the Chinese pair of Li Yongbo and Tian

Bingyi 15-8, 15-6 in the first doubles match. China's Cheng Kang and Chen Hong Yong defeated Cheah Soon Kit and Soo Beng Kiang 15-7, 15-12 in the final doubles.

"We were very pleased to win the

Thomas Cup because this is really a big event," Chinese head coach Hou Jianehang told reporters through an interpreter. Hou said: "We thought the first singles would be a difficult one because Rashid's smashes are power-

ful and he moves quickly around the net." Yang said: "Sidek's net play was excellent today, so I had a hard time. But I knew I could win if I could play my game. My backhand smashes were especially effective."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Egyptian player

CAIRO, Egypt, June 3, (AP): Egyptian soccer player Hossam Hassan, who is credited with bringing Egypt back to the World Cup championship for the first time in 36 years, has been signed up by the Pank soccer club of Salonic, Greece, it was disclosed today.

Star striker

ROME, June 3, (AP): Diego Maradona, Argentina's star striker, was in pain today from ingrown toenails in both feet and couldn't put on his soccer shoes or practice, the team's coach said.

Two other top Argentine players — defender Oscar Ruggeri and midfielder Jorge Burruchaga — also couldn't train because of muscle spasms and were limited to jogging at the team's training camp in Trigoria, 40 kilometres (25 miles) southeast of Rome.

Spanish club

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, June 3, (Reuters): Spanish First Division soccer club Real Sociedad have signed midfielder Kevin Richardson from last year's English League champions Arsenal for \$1.3 million, club officials said today.

Naali wins

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 3, (AP): Simon Robert Naali of Tanzania took the lead at the 10-kilometre (six-mile) mark and cruised to an easy victory in the Stockholm Marathon, beating runner-up Jose Santana of Brazil by 1 minute and 17 seconds.

Mottet wins

PASSO PORDOI, Italy, June 3, (UPI): Gianni Bugno of Italy dominated the 16th stage of the Tour of Italy cycle race yesterday but was beaten to the line in the final sprint by Charles Mottet of France. Mottet covered the arduous 171 kilometres from Dobbiaco in Passo Pordoi, a stage that includes six tough mountain climbs, in 5 hours 29 minutes 24 seconds, at an average of 31.146 kilometres per hour.

2-shot lead

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania, June 3, (Reuters): Cathy Gerring posted seven birdies yesterday on her way to a five-under-par 67 that gave her a two-stroke lead going into today's final round of the \$300,000 Lady Keystone Open.

French Cup

PARIS, June 3, (Reuters): Montpellier scored twice in extra time yesterday to beat Racing Paris 2-1 in the French Soccer Cup. Racing, who eliminated Bordeaux and Marseille on their way to the final, restricted the score to 0-0 at fulltime.

Dutch champions

AMSTERDAM, June 3, (Reuters): Dutch Soccer League champion Ajax Amsterdam have been formally charged with tax fraud involving transfers of several players since the late 1970s, a prosecution spokesman said yesterday.

Derby favourite

CLARKSBURG, New Jersey, June 3, (AP): Kentucky Derby favourite Mister Frisky, unable to eat because of a grapefruit-size lump in his throat, was being treated with antibiotics yesterday to combat a life-threatening condition, veterinarians said. "It's a situation where there won't be any rapid improvement or decline, hopefully," said Dr Scott E. Palmer, surgeon at the New Jersey Equine Clinic.

Soccer

THE Sheraton Bridge Club game on Tuesday will be held at Regency Palace Hotel at 8:00 pm instead of at Sheraton Hotel.

Agassi, Chang win easily

Capriati youngest Open quarterfinalist

PARIS, June 3, (Reuters): Americans Andre Agassi and Michael Chang today set up an exciting French Open tennis quarterfinal clash, sweeping aside their opponents in style. In the women's event Steffi Graf steamrollered France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-1 6-4 in one hour, hooking a relatively easy-looking quarterfinal match with

Spanish ninth seed Conchita Martinez. Agassi, the highest seed left in the men's competition after the first-round elimination of Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker, dropped a set to former tennis academy colleague Jim Courier, but went on to smash his compatriot 6-7 6-1 6-4 6-0.

"I'm going out with my guns

loaded against Chang," Agassi said after his centre court match, played in drizzle.

Against Spaniard Javier Sanchez, Chang had a taste of the battle to come, meeting an accomplished base-line player. "It was war out there," he said after his 6-4 6-2 6-2 victory.

Courier, who beat Agassi in the third round in Paris last year, said Agassi was now much fitter. "He's definitely in better shape. Whoever wins that (quarterfinal) match must be odds-on favourite to get to the final."

American Jennifer Capriati became at 14 years and 67 days the youngest quarterfinalist ever at the French Tennis Open when she beat Mercedes Paz of Argentina today.

Capriati, who has yet to lose a set in her first Grand Slam tournament, won in straight sets against Paz, who had beaten title holder Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain in the previous round.

Her 6-0 6-3 victory, sealed in just 56 minutes, allowed her to beat by a few days the record for the youngest quarterfinalist, set by compatriot Kathy Rinaldi in 1981.

Capriati, last year's junior champion, said she now aimed to win the senior tournament. Monica Seles was involved in a row at the French Open yesterday over remarks by Nick Bollettieri, the American who runs a

Florida Tennis Academy which the Yugoslav has now left. Bollettieri, who has clients like Andre Agassi, Aaron Krickstein and Jimmy Arias, has been protesting in Paris about his ex-pupil Seles and her family.

"I've spent tens and tens of thousands of dollars on the Seles. I've paid for automobiles, apartments, operations — a very expensive operation — and food. I gave them my heart and soul and thousands of hours," he said.

Seles, who reached the last 16 of the Open on Saturday, denied the claim, saying Bollettieri was jealous because she had quit his academy.

"A lot of people have left the (Bollettieri) academy in the last couple of years. Maybe it's tough for him to lose me because I'm now a number one player and he does not have anyone like me," the Yugoslav said.

Results

Jennifer Capriati (US) beat Mercedes Paz (Argentina) 6-0 6-3; 8-Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria) beat Nicole Pietrangeli (Australia) 3-6 6-3 6-3; 6-Maria Elena Maleeva (Bulgaria) beat 10-Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union) 6-4 6-2; 3-Andre Agassi (US) beat 11-Jim Courier (US) 6-7 (10-8) 6-4 6-0; 11-Michael Chang (US) beat Javier Sanchez (Spain) 6-4 6-2 6-7; 7-Mary Joe Fernandez (US) beat Anne Grossman (US) 6-3 6-2; 1-Steph Graf (West Germany) beat 15-Nathalie Tauziat (France) 6-1 6-4; 8-Conchita Martinez (Spain) beat Wilmar Probst (West Germany) 6-3 6-3.



Agassi slams the ball back to Courier. (Reuters wirephoto)



Capriati in action against Paz. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cup challengers run into very high prices

SAN DIEGO, California, June 3, (Reuters): Rumbings are already being heard among prospective challengers for the America's Cup about the high cost of waterfront facilities in San Diego for the spring 1992 yachting competition.

Challenger syndicates, who completed a two-day meeting on Friday, were told that they were going to have to rent land to construct the shore-based facilities they need — at prices they found hard to take.

"You don't ask the clubs that are coming to play the final of the Super Bowl to build and pay for the stadium before they start playing the match," Danish syndicate chief Valdemar Bandolowski said.

"That's what we are asked to do: to pay for and build up the facilities and then go out and race," said Sandolowski, who chaired the opening session of the challengers meeting, attended by 18 of the 20 expected syndicates.

Challengers said one San Diego boatyard asked Italy's syndicate to pay \$2.5 million — just as a deposit. The actual rental of the land for use as a syndicate base was expected to double that figure.

Alternative challenge regatta sites such as San Francisco are not being taken seriously since syndicate chiefs recognise that a challenger winning elsewhere would not be prepared for San Diego's unique conditions.

"If you want to win the America's Cup in San Diego," said Australian Ernie Taylor, the executive officer of the Challenger of Record Committee, "it'd be silly to be practicing anywhere else."

Taylor said price-gouging was nothing new in America's Cup, and that similar complaints were heard during the 1984 series in Fremantle. Bandolowski, however, said he thinks local authorities should make use of the waterfront rent-free.

"We're coming with a show, so to speak, and we'll be spending our money here. San Diego City expects to have quite a substantial income," he said.

A recent study commissioned by the America's Cup organising committee predicts that the event will generate \$911 million for San Diego's economy — slightly less than the \$1.2 billion projection made in a 1987 study.

Villasana takes world title

MANCHESTER, England, June 3, (Reuters): Marcos Villasana of Mexico won the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) featherweight title yesterday when he stopped unlucky Paul Hodgkinson of Britain in the eighth round.

Hodgkinson's attempt to become the first Englishman this century to lift a world featherweight title ended in bloody failure, although he was ahead on points at the time.

The Mexican was winning his first world title in five attempts. The end came midway through the eighth round as Hodgkinson, with two ugly cuts to his eyes, was sent crumbling to the canvas by a combination of punches from the 29-year-old Villasana.

As the count began, Hodgkinson, 24, stared blindly at referee Arthur Mercante and pleaded: "I cannot see." The contest was halted. Hodgkinson, considered by some a novice, having

fought only 18 professional contests, was clearly not overawed by the occasion as he took the fight to the experienced Mexican, a veteran of 60 bouts.

He caught Villasana with a series of sharp left jabs and a left hook in the opening exchanges but cut under the eye towards the end of the second round. Good work from his corner appeared to staunch the bleeding and the Englishman continued to call the shots.

But by the fifth round Hodgkinson's left eye was half closed and although the Briton built up a big points advantage the fight was transformed in the eighth as Villasana, sensing that only a stoppage would secure him victory, waded in.

Hodgkinson's superiority was confirmed by the judges' scorecards. Luxembourg's Arsene Klopp made it 69-67, American Frank Brunette 69-63 and Belgium's Boh Logist 70-64.

49ers' owner denies deal with Montana

PALO ALTO, California, June 3, (AP): San Francisco 49ers owner Eddie DeBartolo denied a report that quarterback Joe Montana had agreed to a contract extension worth \$14 million over four years.

"I know nothing about that," DeBartolo said in yesterday's editions of the Peninsula Times-Tribune. "I have not talked to Joe about that." DeBartolo, hosting his Super Bowl-champion 49ers in Kauai, Hawaii, for a five-day vacation, said "nothing has been negotiated" with Montana or his agent, Bob Woolf.

"I assure you, when something is done, people will be told. Like I said, nothing has been negotiated," DeBartolo told the Times-Tribune. "If it's that good a deal, I'd take it myself."

It was reported Friday in the National, a daily sports newspaper, that Montana, who has led the 49ers to four Super Bowl titles, reached agreement on a deal that would pay him \$4.5 million next season and about \$14 million for four years.

Frazier's son sentenced

PHILADELPHIA, June 3, (AP): The son of former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier has been sentenced to up to 3 1/2 years in prison for two auto thefts and stealing a young boy's bike.

Hector "Smoking Joe Jr." Frazier was also placed on five years' probation Friday.

The 28-year-old Frazier pleaded guilty to committing the robbery, a burglary of a downtown Philadelphia business, two car thefts and one attempted auto theft.

During the court proceedings, Hector Frazier apologized to 11-

Yachts sink

COWES, England, June 3, (AP): Two boats sank in a yacht race around the Isle of Wight yesterday amid choppy seas and high winds, and a crewman was killed and 12 others were injured, the coast guard said.

A spokesman for the Solent Coast Guard said 51 people were rescued and the injured people were taken to the naval hospital at Haslar, Portsmouth, on the mainland.

Fifteen-hundred yachts competed in the race around the island off the south coast of England. Southwesterly winds around 25 miles (40 kilometres) an hour raised the rough seas.

Sulayem goes out on first day

Toyotas set the pace in Acropolis Rally

ATHENS: Sweden's Mikael Ericsson set the pace on the short but demanding first leg of the 37th Acropolis Rally yesterday.

At the end of the day's six special stages, Ericsson led by four seconds from his Toyota teammate, Spaniard Carlos Sainz, with a cluster of the world's other leading drivers close on their heels.

While the main contenders in this year's World Championship encountered few problems across the rugged gravel trails surrounding Athens, Mohammed bin Sulayem went out of the rally following a succession of setbacks.

After making a confident start in his Winston Toyota Celica GT on the opening Super Stage, the Middle East champion, who had started at No.20, was lying in 14th position and looking to climb into the top ten with three tough days of rallying to follow. On the next stage, however, he

lost two-and-a-half minutes as a result of a mechanical problem which eventually brought the Winston Toyota to a complete halt on stage four.

It was a bitter disappointment for Sulayem who has now been denied the opportunity to test himself in the cauldron of World Championship rallying.

Following Ericsson and Sainz, Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden held third place last night in his Mitsubishi Galant, just ahead of the Lancia Delta of Frenchman Didier Auriol, world champion Mike Biasion from Italy and Finn Juha Kankkunen.

With only 48 seconds separating the leading seven drivers, the battle will gather momentum today, with a further 12 special stages taking the cars west in a loop around the ancient city of Corinth.

The performances of Ericsson and Sainz yesterday provided further evidence that Lancia's



Sulayem (left) went out on stage four

World Championship supremacy of recent years is now under heavy threat from Toyota.

Another of the flying Finns, Markku Alen, had also been hoping to make a big impression after the rally got under way beside the ruins of the Acropolis.

Driving the brand new Subaru Legacy for the first time,

however, Alen did not have the start he wanted. Four kilometres before the second stage a damaged front suspension arm halted his progress, and he reached the end of the first leg down in 15th position.

Leading positions after first leg: 1. Mikael Ericsson (Swe) Toyota Celica GT-4 36 mins, 57

secs; 2. Carlos Sainz (Sp) Toyota Celica GT-4 37:01; 3. Kenneth Eriksson (Swe) Mitsubishi Galant VR-4 37:06; 4. Didier Auriol (Fr) Lancia Delta Integrale 37:08; 5. Mike Biasion (Ita) Lancia Delta Integrale 37:15; 6. Juha Kankkunen (Fin) Lancia Delta Integrale 37:18; 7. Alex Fiorio (Ita) Lancia Delta Integrale 37:43.

A seventh special stage was cancelled after some 1,000 ecologists blocked the dirt roads to protest against what they called "the destruction of the environment by the rally drivers."

The protesters smashed the windows of Finn Ari Vatanen's Mitsubishi. He was ninth.

Ninety-seven drivers from 22 countries started the 2,050 kms four-day rally in brilliant sunshine at the foot of the Acropolis.

The race comprises four legs and 48 special stages over 625 kms of gravel roads.

Soviet players

Three top Soviet soccer team players pictured during training in Moscow earlier this month. Left to right: Alex Boroduk, Ivan Yarezhuk of Dynamo Kiev, and Sergei Aleinikov, currently playing for Juventus of Italy. All of these players have been selected to represent their team again at the World Cup finals in Italy next week. (Reuters wirephoto)

OMAN-BASED Julian Trevor-Roper who trains horses and riders for Sayyid Shabib Bin Taimour Al Said made a sensational winning debut at Hickstead in England on Saturday, beating many of the world's leading riders in the Dubai Eventers Cup. Trevor-Roper, who has worked in Oman for the past five years, only competed here to give his horse, Airborne Max, a work-out before the next three-day competition at Braham.

"Only came over from Muscat two weeks ago," he said. "I ride in Britain when the season finishes in Oman and I hadn't been able to work any of my horses because of the hard ground."

"Then I was told that the course at Hickstead was watered so I decided on the spur of the moment to take part."

Trevor-Roper certainly never imagined for one moment that he would win against such fierce opposition as Virginia Leng, the World and European champion on Griffin, Mark Todd, the double Olympic champion on Bahlua and Captain Mark Phillips on Carter.

The 33-year-old rider was one of only two competitors from the 27-horse field to produce clear rounds.

He went first into the jump-off and a near perfect performance — with only four faults — looked too good for Robert Lemeux who followed him into the arena on Just and Ace and had a disastrous round with 16 faults.



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Published by
Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editorial Office

Airport Road, Sharwaik

P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex

22332 KT

Telephone

4813556 (main lines)

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